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Ex-convict gets 15 years for setting man on fire. PAGE 5

Green Globe cuts ties with Allegiance

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Another investor group eyes $100M renewable energy on Saipan

Green Globe Solutions is cutting ties with Allegiance Capital Corp., which previously agreed to finance a planned $200 million, 40-megawatt wind farm and solar energy project on Tinian and Saipan.

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KEEPING IT NEAT AND CLEAN

Loran Pua, an employee of the Department of Public Works' Roads and Grounds Division, repaints a curb at the parking lot of the governor's office building on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon. Upon request from the governor's office, DPW started water blasting and repainting the parking lot's sign poles, curbs, and parking markers on Monday as part of maintenance and beautification efforts.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

NMI eyes tourism office in Russia

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Due to the overwhelming growth in the number of visitors from Russia, the government is now thinking of opening a tourism office there, with the sole objective of capturing more travelers from the market.

Tenorio

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that a proposal is now on the MVA board of directors' table for deliberation.

Once decision is finalized, the MVA offshore office will be established in Russia next fiscal year, he added.

"This is something the board is deliberating and we're targeting to make it happen by next fiscal year," Tenorio said.

At present, the CNMI has three tour-

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Delayed salaries for dozens of Tinian govt employees

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Dozens of Tinian municipal government employees who were supposed to get their paychecks on Friday had to wait until yesterday to get paid due to the lack of funds.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz separately said the municipal employees got paid yesterday, and the funding came from Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino's payment of $50,000 to the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission.

Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian) pre- filed yesterday a local bill appropriating $29,000 in poker license fees to cover the payroll of dozens of affected Tinian

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➤ Fund hires Alepuyo as in-house counsel. PAGE 7

➤ Labor certifies 35 workers as 'job ready' PAGE 9

GOT A NEWS TIP?
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OPINION METER
This week's poll:
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INSIDE

BUSINESS

The Dow Jones closes above 15,000 in another milestone.

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NATION

Cleveland police face questions about their handling of missing-person cases.

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LIFE & STYLE

Love helps Rod Stewart overcome his writer's block.

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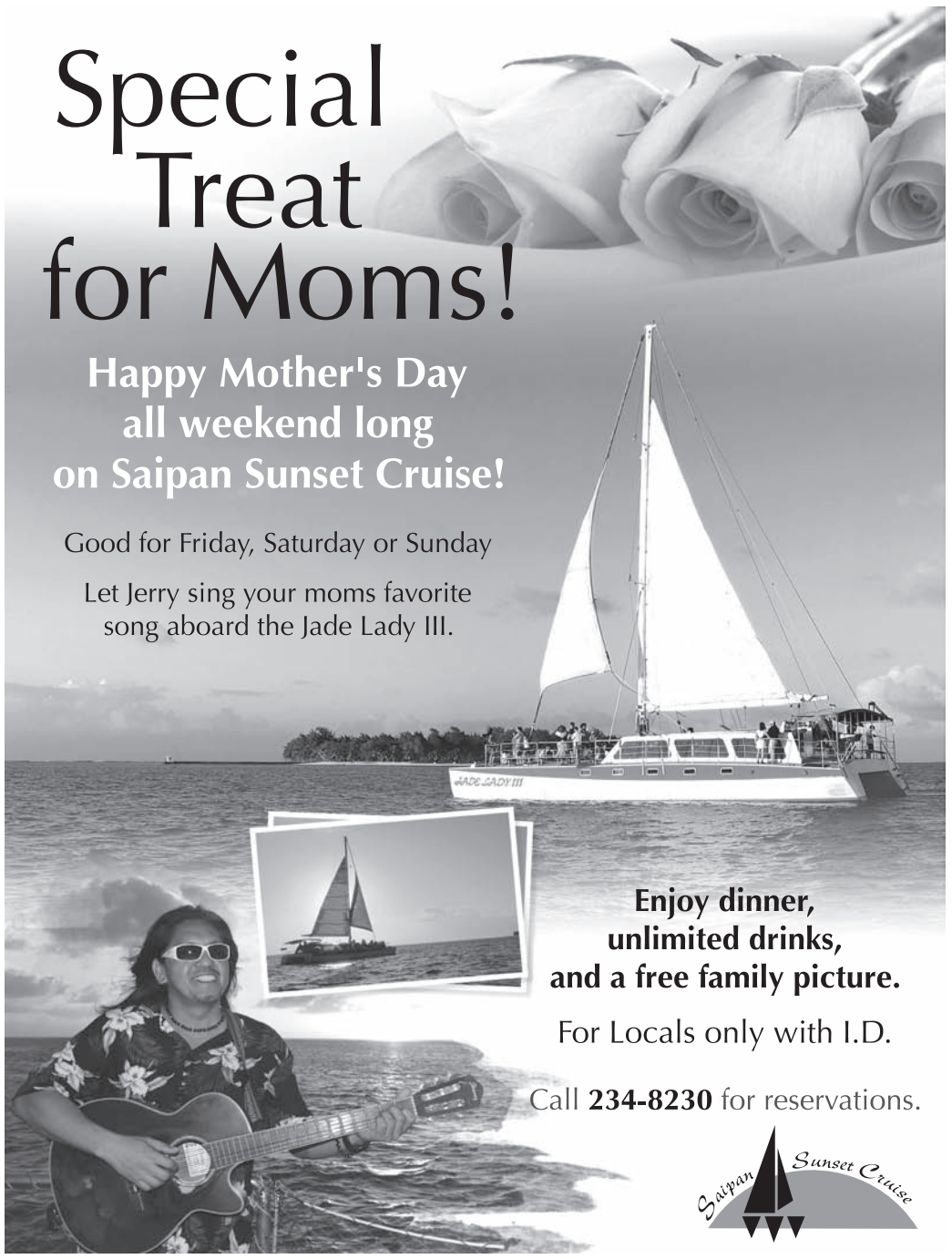
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Local

Optimism high in Fund settlement talks

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI government and parties in Betty Johnson's class action against the NMI Retirement Fund and the CNMI government are optimistic about reaching a settlement agreement.

The parties, through their respective counsels, informed U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood yesterday of the progress of the settlement talks being mediated by Hawaii chief bankruptcy judge Robert J. Faris.

The parties agreed that the settlement process is moving along and that the status conference scheduled for today, Thursday, need to be reset to May 23.

Saipan Tribune learned that Tydingco-Gatewood granted the request and reset the status conference to May 21.

The parties' lawyers—Robert M. Hatch, Daniel J. Berman, and Gilbert J. Birnbrich—said that continuing the status hearing to allow the settlement process to further progress would allow them to present the court with a better idea of whether they can settle the matter.

The lawyers disclosed that since the last status hearing on April 19, settlement negotiations have "steadily progressed."

The government reportedly received Johnson's settlement proposal on April 27.

On May 1, the government met with Faris via video teleconference to discuss Johnson's proposal.

Currently, the government is preparing its response to Johnson's proposal and intends to submit it to Faris by the end of the week.

'Proactive' JKPL approach results in rise in patrons

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library saw an increase in the number of patrons that visited it in April 2013, and its executive director attributes this primarily to the library's aggressive campaigns and programs to lure visitors.

The library's "Comparative Snapshot for FY 2013" shows patron traffic hitting a seven-month high of 7,569 last month, compared to 6,443 in March.

JKPL executive director John Oliver Gonzales said their proactive outreach and marketing, coupled with a more aggressive partnership campaign in public and private schools, resulted in the improvement of patron numbers.

Gonzales said that speaking at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and Saipan Rotary Club also resulted in a more consistent presence in the media, locally and online, helping raise awareness.

The library was also active in cultural, sporting, educational, and health events, conferences, and symposia.

Aside from patron traffic, JKPL also saw increases in its patron base, collections, issuance of new library cards, and collection of library fees.

Patron base rose from 36,261 in March to 36,308. Collections increased to 64,713 in April from 64,507 in March.

A total of 158 new library cards were issued last month compared to 67 in March, while library fines amounted to $569.46 in April, some $48 higher than the $521.43 collected in March.

The only category that nosedived in April was circulation: 5,086 in April compared to 5,280 in March. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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Hospital tops CUC's $20.9M collectibles from customers

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. disclosed yesterday that the island's public hospital owes the biggest chunk of collectibles, representing arrears that date back to October 2011 when the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. took over the Department of Public Health.

Records obtained by *Saipan Tribune* show that the Commonwealth Health Center owes the utilities corporation $7 million in unpaid obligations as of yesterday.

According to CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren, the hospital's unpaid obligation is from Oct. 1, 2011, through April 30, 2013. He said the last payment received from the healthcare corporation was on April 19, 2013, totaling $233,000.

CUC's receivables for all active accounts now total $20.9 million, the biggest chunk of which is owed by CHC, Warren said.

Records show that the Public School System owes CUC $4.3 million, making it the second highest debtor of the utility agency.

The central government comes third, with $2.3 million in unpaid obligations.

Among residential customers, CUC's collectibles as of April 30 this year total $3 million while commercial customers owe $4.3 million. CUC defines an active customer as one who receives a bill for services during the month.

CUC is a nonprofit organization whose operation relies on the payment of its power, water, and wastewater customers.

CUC officials earlier stated that since the utilities corporation is budgeted to have zero profit, failure to collect for all services billed results in delayed payments to vendors and eventually in a reduction in services and systems maintenance.

CUC remains under a state of emergency due the existing financial crisis of the agency.

Meantime, Warren disclosed that CUC customers will not see any adjustments in their utility bills following confirmation that there is currently no plan to increase the rates for May and June. No changes were also made in April.

CUC last increased its levelized energy adjustment clause rate on March 5 due to increasing fuel costs in the world market. The rate was adjusted by 7.15 percent from $0.29751 per kilowatt-hour to $0.31878 per kWh.

LEAC is part of the customer's bill that reflects the cost of fuel. It goes up or down to reflect the cost of buying fuel to run the power plants. The other component of the bill is the electric base rate.

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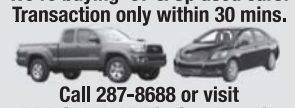
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CEC wants some changes in election law

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

In preparation for next year's general election, the Commonwealth Election Commission will push for several changes in the existing election law to both speed up the counting process and save on operational costs.

CEC executive director Robert A. Guerrero disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that members of the Legislature have already expressed willingness to make the changes, based on the agency's initial discussions with lawmakers.

One proposed amendment to the Commonwealth Code is changing the schedule for the commission to pick up absentee ballots from the post office during Election Day. The law allows only one pickup. The commission wants to change this to two—once in the morning and another in the afternoon—to give election commissioners ample time to process absentee ballots.

Guerrero disclosed that the delay in the election results during the last midterm election was due to the long hours of processing absentee ballots. He said it took the commissioners more than four hours to complete the process. Commissioners can only start the official tabulation and counting of all ballots after all absentee ballots are processed.

By having two pickup schedules for absentee ballots on Election Day, the election board can start processing the first batch of mailed documents early.

Under Guerrero's proposal, the first pickup will be at 11am and the second pickup is at 4pm.

There were approximately over 1,500 absentee ballots during last year's election.

Another proposed amendment to the law is reducing the number of days designated for early voting. From the mandated 11 days early voting period, Guerrero wants to cut it down to five to seven days, when bulk of early voters come in. By doing this, CEC can minimize its operational costs in sending poll workers to three islands for 11 days.

Agency records show that the commission spends about $10,000 just to field poll workers and security during the early voting period.

Also, CEC would like to adjust the election time to begin at 8:30am, also to save on costs. Under the law, elections start at 8am, which means the commission brings in poll workers and watchers to prepare a few hours prior to the opening, resulting in overtime costs.

"The whole idea is for the CNMI to see a more efficient election process starting next year. These proposed changes will ultimately speed up the whole process and will reduce expenditures," Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that a few more minor changes in the election law will also be recommended.

In next year's general election, voters will also elect the attorney general, a first in the history on the CNMI, after voters adopted this during the last election.

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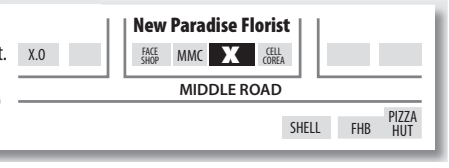

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Arctic Circle Air moving forward after lawsuit settlement

Arctic Circle Air can now look forward to expanding its fledgling cargo and passenger service in the Marianas now that its lawsuit against a Rhode Island-based bank has been settled.

Arctic Circle official Paul Zak said the carrier can now focus its energies on adding more aircraft so that it could improve service to its Guam-Saipan and Guam-Rota routes.

"The whole issue came down to we wanting to pay the loan off. We wanted to pay it off! They wanted fees on top of the loan, which were inappropriate. We were in a situation that as long as they didn't settle, we had to pay interest. What would you do?" Zak said in a phone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Under the agreement signed late last month, Arctic Circle Air agreed to dismiss the lawsuit and pay Independence Bank $70,000.

For its part, Independence Bank agreed to release its liens on Arctic Circle's aircraft. Each party also agreed to pay its own court costs and attorneys' fees.

"We paid off the loan. The loan is paid off plus we settled on the amount of fees that they charged, which was substantially a lesser amount. I'm happy because we're no longer paying interest," said Zak.

"The loan was always supposed to be a short-term loan but they kept extending it and that's when we got into a problem. We wanted to pay it off months ago. There also were other issues involved," he said.

Zak credited both Arctic Circle Air and Independence Bank for settling the lawsuit amicably.

"We just wanted to put this behind us. Let's just get done with it. It was costing us money because of interest. We just wanted to move on. We paid any outstanding interest and some other fees. It was approximately $20,000 in interest."

Zak said that Arctic Circle Air is about ready to expand its service to the Marianas but is limited because of their lack of aircraft.

He said the purchase of additional aircraft—as much three—is under negotiations. The businessman, however, added that the acquisition of new aircraft and Arctic Circle Air opening additional service will be "much sooner than next year and hopefully this coming summer." ***(Saipan Tribune)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 6th birthday to our princess, Leilani Justine! Wishing you many, many more beautiful blessings and love on your special day. We love you to the moon and back! Love always, your whole family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TO HELP RETIREMENT FUND

Bill scraps, caps retirement benefits of 'dependents'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Two newly pre-filed bills seek to stretch the NMI Retirement Fund's lifespan by temporarily cutting tax rebates by at least 20 percent effective Jan. 1, 2014, and by both capping at $25,000 the annual benefit that a surviving spouse of a Fund beneficiary receives and eliminating the benefits "for all other dependents."

House Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) pre-filed yesterday House Bill 18-70, repealing certain dependent benefits and placing a cap on spouse benefits that the Fund provides.

Since the CNMI government ceased making its full contributions to the Fund, all retirement benefits have become unfunded or underfunded.

"Since it appears unlikely that the Commonwealth government will make its full required contribution, it is necessary to reduce the Retirement Fund benefits, particularly those benefits which are not consistent with traditional retirement plans," Dela Cruz said.

He said based on latest audited information, there were 124 children dependents of Class 1 deceased members receiving a total of $30,132, and 158 children beneficiaries of Class II deceased members receiving a total of $71,258.

"The elimination of this benefit would not affect current dependent beneficiaries who are presently receiving an annuity," Dela Cruz added.

Deleon Guerrero's House Bill 18-69, meanwhile, reduces rebates from the Northern Marianas Territorial Incomes Tax from 90 percent to 70 percent at the highest level of rebate, with proportional reduction in the rebate at the lower levels.

The proposed rebate cut, however, will only be for two years. It takes effect on Jan. 1, 2014, and expires on Dec. 31, 2015.

Deleon Guerrero said revenues from the Chapter 7 tax will be appropriated to the NMI Retirement Fund only.

If the rebate base is below $20,000, the rebate amount is 70 percent of the rebate base.

If it's over $20,000 but not over $100,000, the rebate amount is $14,000—instead of $18,000—plus 50 percent—instead of 70 percent—of the rebate base over $20,000.

If the rebate base is over $100,000, the rebate amount is $54,000 instead of $74,000, plus 30 percent instead of 50 percent of the rebate base over $100,000.

Richard Pierce, a businessman and current executive director of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said yesterday that, "as a businessman in the CNMI for over 30 years, I don't believe it's my place to apologize to retirees for the central government's fiscal mismanagement and what it owes the Retirement Fund."

"To reduce rebates to individuals and corporations not only robs me the wrong way, it's the wrong thing to do. The Legislature should not be coming to businesses and those who pay taxes to bail them out of a situation they got themselves into," Pierce added.

The government owes the Fund some $300 million in unremitted employer's contribution. Without immediate infusion of cash or drastic cuts in its obligations, the Fund's lifespan is expected only up to March 2014.

GREEN

From Page 1

Chris Thunken, Green Globe Solutions president and CEO, explained yesterday that this will help them gain credibility in the CNMI, which is still wary of Allegiance Capital's involvement in any power project, especially if it's still tied up to a shipyard in Lower Base.

At the same time, lawmakers said yesterday that another investor—Blue Ocean Energy Co.—will present next week a planned $100 million liquefied natural gas project on Saipan.

Thunken told *Saipan Tribune* that Green Globe Solutions had other financers in the pipeline since the outset and, in fact, have one now to replace Allegiance Capital.

"We will be in good shape to pursue our projects without Allegiance," Thunken said.

He said they have considered the concerns raised by lawmakers and others in the CNMI about Allegiance's involvement.

"We are pursuing this project, we are moving forward. We are evaluating everything we've heard. We heard a lot of support for the project. But there were lots of concerns about [Allegiance]. …That's not an issue now," Thunken added.

Allegiance Capital and Keystone Shipping formed Saipan Development LLC, which earlier signed a $190.8 million diesel power purchase agreement with former governor Benigno R. Fitial. That agreement is now the subject of a court injunction and was one of the bases of two House impeachment resolutions against Fitial.

Fitial stepped down days before the start of his impeachment trial at the Senate.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) said yesterday that Green Globe Solutions severing ties with Allegiance is "more favorable on their [Green Globe Solutions] part, now that they're no longer associated with the controversial company."

Nevertheless, Deleon Guerrero said it is best that everyone wait for the result of a renewable energy integration study that he said will determine how much renewable energy can be accommodated by the current power grid.

An RFP for this renewable integration study has just been released.

On Monday, Allegiance Capital's Kenneth Mahmood and Green Globe Solutions presented to senators their planned 30-megawatt wind farm on Tinian and 10MW solar project on Saipan.

The following day, only Green Globe Solutions' Thunken and managing partner Lars Jorgensen presented before House and Senate members.

The company is seeking a power purchase agreement with the CNMI government, offering a reliable supply of alternative energy to reduce reliance on the existing diesel power plant.

During those two presentations, lawmakers grilled Green Globe Solutions about its ties to Mahmood and Allegiance Capital because of the botched $190.8 million SDLLC diesel power plant project.

Lawmakers also pointed out that Allegiance was strongly pushing for a 50MW diesel power plant less than a year ago, and is trying to come back with a renewable energy project that will also allow for the privatization of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s power production and distribution.

The plan would move the current CUC power plant from its current location in Lower Base to give way to a shipyard project.

Deleon Guerrero reiterated yesterday that Allegiance still wants to "bait the CNMI with the same hook."

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) and other lawmakers said Green Globe Solutions presented a good alternative energy source but its ties with Mahmood and Allegiance raise a "red flag."

Another $100M project

Meanwhile, House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee chair Rep. Larry Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) and Rep. John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday that Hong Kong-based Blue Ocean Energy Co. Ltd. will give a presentation to lawmakers on May 16 about their plan to develop a liquefied natural gas, or LNG, plant on Saipan.

"This is a $100 million investment and the project has three stages—first, gas infrastructure mobilization; second, gas deepening utilization; and third, LNG carrier purchase," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

The presentation is at 10am next Thursday in the House chamber, and the PUTC Committee is inviting everyone to listen to the merits of the plan.

Like other lawmakers, Deleon Guerrero said the renewable integration study will play a key role.

"We need to wait for that study before we can make a decision [on] what type and how much alternative energy we need," he added.

Deleon Guerrero and other lawmakers said they are thankful for investors such as Green Globe Solutions and Blue Ocean Energy for their interest in investing in renewable energy in the CNMI.

"We welcome them and thank them for coming here," he added.

The Legislature and the Executive Branch, as well as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., have been receiving presentations from investors about their renewable energy plans but nothing concrete has come out of these yet.

SALARIES

From Page 1

municipal employees. But Conner said he will be withdrawing the bill upon learning that the municipal government paid the affected employees yesterday.

Lucy Blanco-Maratita, the newly hired Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission's executive director, confirmed that the $50,000 payment from Dynasty is partial payment for its license fee.

Dela Cruz said this is not payment for gaming revenue taxes, which he said Dynasty has not been remitting since at least February.

Conner said if the average monthly tax is $266,000, then Dynasty may be behind by some $800,000 in tax payments to the municipality since February.

Meanwhile, Tinian Dynasty paid its employees an equivalent of one payroll last week, sources said.

A U.S. Internal Revenue Service investigation, an arrest over Dynasty's alleged non-filing of required paperwork with IRS and cases filed against the Dynasty temporarily closed the casino area for almost a day in April. Hotel operations at Dynasty were not disrupted and were business as usual.

Dynasty is the biggest private sector employer on Tinian, and dozens of Tinian municipal government employees get their salaries from fees and taxes that Dynasty pays.

TOURISM

From Page 1

ism offices: in Japan, South Korea, and China.

The Northern Marianas receives bi-weekly direct charter flights from Vladivostok and weekly charter flights from Khabarovsk.

Arrivals from Russia in March this year registered a 140-percent growth compared to the March 2012 record: from 688 to 1,648 arrivals.

Year-to-date records from MVA show that in November 2012 this destination recorded an overwhelming growth of 192 percent, from just 240 visitors in November 2011 to 700 visitors in November 2012. In the following months of December and January, the Russia market yielded 34 percent and 52 percent growth, respectively.

In February 2013, the destination registered a 114-percent growth.

This year's March arrivals were the biggest from the Russia market, with a total of 1,648 tourists.

Tenorio said the decision to open an offshore office in Russia will still depend on the budget that will be given to the MVA for its operational activities in fiscal year 2014. The CNMI budget for next fiscal year has yet to be finalized.

According to press secretary Angel A. Demapan, the proposal for a new tourism office outside the CNMI is always welcome but funding for this purpose must first be secured.

"The administration welcomes the idea of opening an offshore office in Russia to further promote the CNMI to the Russian tourist market. The governor has submitted his budget proposal to the Legislature. Between now and the beginning of the new fiscal year, the administration will continue to monitor revenues generation activity. If there appears a trend of increased revenue activities during the period, then the administration will be open to revisiting its budget proposal for all critical agencies," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

For Tenorio, the consistent growth of arrivals from all source markets is due to the CNMI's beautiful products and its U.S. visa-free entry for Chinese and Russian tourists.

MVA projects a 7-percent growth in arrivals from all markets this fiscal year compared to last year.

Ex-convict gets 15-year sentence for setting man on fire

An ex-convict who set another man on fire using gasoline in a tea bottle outside a store in Garapan has pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Alfonso Ramon, 29, pleaded guilty Tuesday afternoon to the charges of assault with a dangerous weapon and aggravated assault and battery as part of a plea deal.

The remaining charges—attempted first-degree murder, reckless burning, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace—were dropped.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo sentenced Ramon to 10 years in prison in the assault with a dangerous weapon charge and five years in prison in the aggravated assault and battery case, for a total of 15 years.

Ramon was allowed to serve the sentence subject to parole. After completing his sentence, he will be placed on probation for five years.

He was also ordered to indemnify the victim, write a letter to the victim, and pay a $1,000 fine and $600 in court costs and probation fee.

Ramon splashed gasoline on Zaji Zajradhara and set him on fire on Aug. 18, 2012. Zajradhara suffered first-degree burns on his face, neck, chest, back, arms, legs, and ankles.

Police said that, prior to the incident, Ramon confronted the victim and accused him of working for the Drug Enforcement Administration. Ramon blamed the victim for having him arrested for selling marijuana.

During the argument, Ramon threatened to set the victim on fire. He then left but returned later with a tea bottle filled with gasoline and a rolled napkin that was already burning.

Ramon splashed the gasoline on the victim's feet, igniting fire at his feet. He then splashed gasoline on the victim's face but the latter blocked it with a bag, causing the fuel to splash onto the victim's right shoulder and arm, which then caught fire.

The victim threw himself on the ground and managed to extinguish the blaze. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Wonenberg named NMC college marshal

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Barry Wonenberg, the longest serving educator at the Northern Marianas College, has been named the college marshal, a role that will require him to represent the college at all ceremonial events in which NMC's governing board and president are in attendance.

NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D. announced Wonenberg's appointment yesterday.

"I am pleased to announce that Mr. Barry Wonenberg, faculty member of the Social Sciences and Fine Arts Department, has graciously accepted the offer bestowed upon the president to serve as college marshal," said Hart.

He will serve as college marshal during his full-time employment at NMC.

Wonenberg is the most senior faculty member at the college and has been an NMC instructor for more than 22 years.

In addition to teaching visual arts at the college, Wonenberg is also a well-known artist in the CNMI, having displayed his artwork in major festivals and events. His work has also been internationally recognized.

Wonenberg was selected to represent the Northern Mariana Islands in a juried international competition to create four of his sculptures for the 9th, 11th, and 12th annual Changchun China International Sculpture Symposium.

As college marshal, his participation is expected in ceremonial occasions such as graduations, which begin with the entrance of the college mace carried by the college marshal.

From its origin as a weapon in ancient and medieval times, the mace gradually became a symbol of peaceful leadership. Today, maces frequently represent authority in parliamentary and formal academic occasions. The mace is borne in processions by a high official or by a representative of the authority presiding over the event.

The NMC mace is adorned with the college logo, which depicts the Proa, an ancient Micronesian voyaging canoe that is found in both Chamorro and Carolinian cultures. The forward profile of the Proa in the logo resembles a blazing lamp, which is the symbol for the light of knowledge.

The NMC mace was handcrafted in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Man allegedly beats up wife, threatens her with machete

A man allegedly beat up his wife and threatened her with a machete in front of their child at their house in Koblerville Monday night.

Nestor Buan Manabat, 45, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. His bail was set at $10,000 cash.

Police detective Flora Danica B. Aguon stated in her report that police officer Jonathan Decena responded Monday at 8:35pm to a domestic violence report at a residence in Koblerville.

Aguon said that Decena met with the victim at a different house and escorted her home as she was scared of her husband because he had a machete.

In his interview with the couple's daughter, the child allegedly told Decena that her father held her mother by the neck, slapped her face, and pulled her hair. Manabat then allegedly took a machete from a cabinet and repeatedly told his wife to call the police.

The wife told police that she became frightened when her husband took out the machete. She said this was not the first time her husband threatened her with it.

Police said that Manabat denied holding a machete during the argument but admitted pulling his wife's hair. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Konbetsa Kafe
Where face-to-face conversation flows
Mother's Day Treat
May 12, 2013
9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.
Complimentary Toast with a Glass of Wine
Cold Appetizers: Eggplant Salad with Coconut Milk and Caesar Salad
Soup: Chalakilis
Entreé: Roast Pig and Sukiyaki with a Choice of Bistek or Eskabechi
Dessert: Lantiyas and Ahu
$20.00 for Adults
$12.00 for Children (Ages 5-11)
Surprise Gift for the first 50 Moms
Monday to Saturday 7:00am – 9:00pm
Sunday 7:00am – 3:00pm
Located next to Cutz and Colours Salon at RJ Plaza Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road across Joeten DanDan Commercial Building
For reservation, call Tel.: 234-2637 or email: konbetsa.kafe@gmail.com
Notary Public and Copying Services available as an extra value added services.

Show her she's special this
Mother's Day
Samsung GALAXY GRAND GSM
Step up in grand style and enjoy top end features on Samsung Galaxy Grand's amazing 5.0" screen.
Smart Stay
Direct Call
Multi Window Mode
S Voice
Popup Play
$149*
happy mothers day
Samsung GALAXY S III mini GSM
$149*
IT&E
Life in Motion
Get connected. Stay connected
with the BEST network in the CNMI and Guam
*Some conditions apply • must sign up for 2-yr contract on Unlimited Android Plan
SAIPAN: 682-4ITE (4483) • TINIAN: 433-0210 • ROTA: 532-3599 • GUAM: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • WWW.ITE.NET

Nicole Torres adds another feather to her cap

Priscilla and William Torres of Saipan will celebrate Mother's Day this year in Honolulu, Hawaii, while watching their daughter, Nicole Manglona Torres, graduate from the William S. Richardson School of Law with a Native Hawaiian Law Certificate.

Torres

The annual law school commencement is this Sunday, May 12, 2013, at the Andrews Amphitheatre at 4:30pm. Nicole Torres is among only 11 other fellow graduates this year and 39 other alumni with the Native Hawaiian law certificate distinction.

"One of the main reasons I chose to pursue a law degree at Richardson was the opportunity to obtain a Native Hawaiian Law Certificate and engage in dialogue on legal issues affecting indigenous communities, especially in the Pacific region, with experts in the field and peers familiar with such issues," said Torres. "No other program parallels the Native Hawaiian Law Certificate. I'm truly grateful for the program."

Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law offers the certificate program.

Torres enrolled in various courses to earn her certificate. She described some of her courses. "Second Year Seminar gave me the chance to analyze political and legal issues affecting my people in the Marianas. Federal Indian Law and Native Hawaiian Rights provided me with more insight into the legal issues affecting Indians and Native Hawaiians. Native Law and Policy gave me the opportunity to examine current policies affecting native peoples. Native Hawaiian Rights Clinic introduced me to tackling indigenous-related issues through the litigation process."

Associate law professor and Ka Huli Ao director Melody Kapilialoha MacKenzie stated: "Nicole is a very remarkable and hardworking student. We will miss her—she has been my research assistant and has made a significant contribution to my own work. We are excited about her career as an attorney and an advocate for indigenous peoples."

In addition to her participation with the Native Hawaiian Law Certificate program, Torres also served as the executive comments editor for the *Asian-Pacific Law & Policy Journal*. She was also a member of the University of Hawaii Marianas Club.

Torres made sure she took advantage of the opportunity to apply what she learned in school to the real world. She interned at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs directly with the organization's Chief Advocate, Breann Nuuhiwa. Nuuhiwa was also Torres' professor for the Federal Indian Law and Native Law and Policy courses.

After graduation Torres will return home where she will serve as a law clerk to the CNMI Supreme Court. While appreciative of her experience in the Native Hawaiian Law program, Torres looks forward to an expansion of the program to fully encompass the important issues affecting other Pacific Island people.

"The William S. Richardson School of Law is the perfect place to be the center for Pacific Island legal studies," she said.

Prior to law school, Torres demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and earned summa cum laude honors from the University of San Francisco in the spring of 2010 when she graduated. In that same year, Torres was also a recipient of the prestigious Truman Scholar Award given by the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation to pursue graduate study. Only 60 students nationally are selected each year to be Truman Scholars. ***(PR)***

SDA's fun run raises nearly $6K

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A total of 77 community members of all shapes and sizes took part in last Saturday's 4th Annual 5K Hope Run organized by the Saipan Seventh Day Adventists School.

The Saipan Seventh Day Adventist School successfully raised $5,939.17 during its 4th Annual 5K Hope Run held last May 5.

Virle Shay Gayatin, Saipan SDA public relations director and accountant, said the money will go to the Hope Run Scholarship Fund for school year 2013-2014.

The fun run, which started at the Garapan Fishing Base and ended at the Minatchom Atdao Pavillion, was topped by Si Young Heo. Other male and female runners won their respective age groups. ***(See related story on Page 26)***

A total of 77 individuals took part in the fun run.

The 5K Hope Run was sponsored by DFS Galleria, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Saipan World Resort, TSL Foundation, Pacific Islands Club, Mariana Resort & Spa, Laolao Bay Golf Resort, IT&., National Office Supply, Hardt Eye Clinic, Seventh Day Adventist Clinic, 360 Restaurant, Subway, Girl Talk, Aon Insurance, Micronesian Marine, Shenanigans, Island Apparel, 89.9 Joy FM, The Athlete's Foot, and Herman's Bakery.

Last March, Saipan SDA School moved to a more spacious campus in Chalan Kiya, the former site of the Calvary Christian Academy, which closed down in June 2012.

During the ceremony celebrating the transfer to the new site, Saipan SDA School received letters of monetary pledges to assist them in paying off the loan to purchase the new property.

Guam-Micronesia Mission committed $100,000 while Hope for Humanity and the Adventist Education North American Division each pledged $50,000. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

PUBLIC NOTICE

13th CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Friday, May 10, 2013 at 8:30 a.m.
BOE Conference Room
Bwughos Street, Susupe, Saipan

AGENDA

I. Preliminary
1) Call to Order
2) Roll Call
3) Adoption of Agenda
4) Adoption of Minutes
a) April 11, 2013 Regular Board Meeting

II. Public Comments[1]

III. Reports
1) Chair
2) Board Committees
a) CIP
b) FPA
c) ISA
d) LIA
e) Student Issues, Community and Parent Programs (SICPP)
f) AD HOC on Joint BOE-NMC BOR
g) AD HOC on COE Evaluation
3) Commissioner of Education
a) Financial Status Reports
(1) Federal
(2) Local
b) Board Meet & Greet
c) Other matters

IV. Unfinished Business
1) Head Start Program
a. FY 2013-2014 Basic and T&TA Refunding Application
b. SY 2013-2014 Transportation Waiver
c. SY2012-2013 Self-Assessment Report
d. SY2012-2013 Community Assessment Report
e. Revised Selection Criteria
2) Proposed Koblerville Jr. High School
a. Masterplan
b. Gymnasium
3) Saipan Southern High School Swimming Pool Project

V. New Business
1) School Calendar for SY2013-2014
a. Elementary & Secondary Schools (K-12)
b. Head Start Program
c. Early Intervention Program
2) Commissioner of Education Evaluation Tool
3) Commissioner of Education Annual Evaluation Timeline
4) Ratification of LIA comments to House Local Bill No. 18-4, D1: "To re-appropriate the fund balance from Saipan Local Law 16-1 Section 1(A); and for other purposes."
5) School Turnaround Americorps FY13 Grant Application (Ratification)
6) HIV Grant Application (Ratification)
7) OIA Grant Application
8) PSS Purpose and Direction Statements (Draft 1)
a. Vision & Mission
b. Core Values and Beliefs Guiding Principles
9) Proclamation of Support Our Heroes to Teach Week (May 13-17, 2013)

VI. Executive Session[2]
1) Legal Updates
2) Personnel
3) Other matters

VII. Administrative Matters
1) Certification & Licensure Matters
a. Endorsement of Certification & Licensure Office Recommendations
1. Basic I – one
2. Basic II – one
3. Standard with Endorsement – one
4. Professional (Administrator) – one

VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

IX. Adjournment

[1]Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2]Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for Marianas Pacific Foods, LLC

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Ms. Eleanor B. Alinas-Loste of Marianas Pacific Foods, LLC is proposing to operate a catering, as well as the processing and packaging of chips and other food items. This use is classified as Manufacturing and Processing and is located on lot 009 L 10/ 11, San Antonio, in a Village Commercial zoning district.

Date: **May 24, Friday**
Time: **5:00 pm**
Place: **Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan**

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, May 22, 2013. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for Sky ATV

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Mr. Do Yeon Kim of Phillip's Corporation, Inc. is proposing to operate ATV (All Terrain Vehicle) outdoor activities at Ladder Beach and Obyan areas. This use is classified as Amusement, Outdoor and its office is located on Lot 011 L 03, within Coral Ocean Point Resort Club's premise in Koblerville. These areas are within the Tourist Resort and Rural zoning districts.

Date: **May 24, Friday**
Time: **5:00 pm**
Place: **Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan**

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, May 22, 2013. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

Fund hires Alepuyo as in-house counsel

The NMI Retirement Fund announced yesterday the addition of lawyer Viola Alepuyo to the Fund's staff as part-time in-house counsel.

Acting Fund administrator Lillian M. Pangelinan stated: "When I found out Ms. Alepuyo resigned from the Office of the Attorney General, I immediately contacted her and asked if she would consider working for the Fund. The Fund is in desperate need of legal experts with institutional knowledge, both of which Ms. Alepuyo will be able to contribute. We are pleased that she has agreed to serve as a part-time in-house counsel handling the multitude of issues facing the Fund and its members on a daily basis."

Pangelinan pointed out that Alepuyo possesses "institutional knowledge of the Fund and its board's plight in bringing forward the Fund's true fiscal dilemma."

When suing the CNMI government was not the norm, Alepuyo was one of the attorneys who filed the initial lawsuit against the government, former governor Benigno R. Fitial, and now Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who was at the time the Finance secretary. The Superior Court ultimately issued a judgment in excess of $300 million in favor of the Fund.

The Fund and Alepuyo agreed to a part-time employment arrangement on a set salary. This will allow Alepuyo to continue with her private practice while providing invaluable services to the Fund.

Fund in-house counsel Rebecca Wrightson stated: "I am particularly excited that Ms. Alepuyo has agreed to help us out. I know that Val will have no problem providing the legal assistance needed at the Fund. Her vast experience as the board's legal counsel makes her the region's expert on pension matters. We are very fortunate to have on her board and I look forward to working closely with her."

For her part, Alepuyo said: "I thought long and hard about returning to the Fund. We worked so hard and, for so long, trying to save the Fund and received many criticisms along the way. But ultimately, it's all about helping Fund members and doing what is necessary to save their pensions and contributions, which may be their only source of income for them and their familie—that was truly the motivating factor for returning to the Fund. I intend to do what is necessary to help the Fund provide services to Fund members." ***(NMI Retirement Fund)***

Philippine consulate to hold 3-day field voting on Saipan

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam will be conducting a field voting on Saipan from today, May 9, 2013, to Saturday, May 11, 2013, for all registered Filipino overseas absentee voters in the CNMI.

The field voting will be held at the Kristo Rai Parish Social Hall, in coordination with the United Filipino Organizations. This is in line with the May 13 election for senators and party-list representatives.

A three-man electoral team from the consulate, composed of Consul Edgar Tomas Q. Auxilian, Francisco Magno, and Allan Tangayan, is being dispatched immediately to Saipan for this activity.

The schedule for the field voting is as follows:

- Thursday, May 9: From 12pm to 6pm
- Friday, May 10: From 8:30am to 6pm
- Saturday, May 11: From 8:30am to 6pm

Only those who meet the following criteria will be allowed to participate in the field voting:

1) Those registered overseas voters who have already received their ballots via postal service may submit their duly accomplished ballots to the electoral team (instead of sending them via postal service to the consulate).

2) Those who are on the Certified List of Voters, or CLOV, who have not yet received their ballots may come to cast their votes. Ballots will be provided to them by the electoral team at the voting precinct/venue.

3) Those whose names are on the list of those who failed to vote in the last two overseas absentee voting/elections (in 2007 and 2010) may also be allowed to vote.

The CLOV and the list of those who failed to vote in the last two elections are posted in the consulate website, www.philippines-guam.org, as well as in the consulate's Facebook account, Agana PCG. Please check if your names are on these lists.

All registered overseas absentee voters are advised to bring with them a valid Philippine passport or any valid I.D. for identification purposes when they come to the field voting venue.

All registered Filipino overseas absentee voters on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are urged to take advantage of the chance to cast or submit their ballots at the field voting.

Also, passports that were processed last March 21-24, 2013, during the consular services at Joeten Daidai Social Hall will be released. The consulate will not entertain passport renewals and applications during the field voting. ***(PCG)***

AQUA RESORT CLUB
Saipan
Mother's Day
Sunday Brunch
with Sparkling Wines and Beers
Local Rate
Adult - $ 26.00
Child- $ 15.00 (5 to 10 yrs. old)
4-below is free
Family Photo (FREE - 1 picture per family)
(will be taken in Taga Room)
Entertainment by Bobby and Ms. Ruthie Fruit
Raffle Draw with lots of great prizes
• 1 Gift Certificate of 1 Room night accommodation w/ Breakfast for two
• 1 Gift Certificate of Seafood Night Buffet for two
• 1 Gift Certificate of Sunday Brunch for two
• 3 Gift Certificate of Light & Easy Lunch for two
For room reservation, please
call Gina at 322-1234 ext. 773
e-mail: info@aquaresortsaipan.com
Sale and Display Booths
Tokie's Handicrafts
Orchids & Ornamental Plants
Thank you Mom...

TSC
TARO SUE STORE
Phone: (670) 234-5416/17 • Fax: (670) 235-5415
Mother's Day Special
Gift Items, Novelties Collection & Display
50% to 75% OFF
25% OFF
Ladies Bags
Luggage's & Clothing
Beddings
All Kinds of Furniture's
Kitchen Items & House wares
Kenmore Refrigerator
16 cu. ft.
Reg. Price
$959.00
NOW
$699.00
Clearance Sale: $5.00 Beach Umbrella 36 inches
FREE Umbrella 24 inches for every $50.00 purchase from 25% off only!
Beds, Bunk beds, Appliances, Bikes & Electronics - 10% to 15% only!
(Commercial & Residential Air con not included)
Sales Start: May 9 to 11, 2013 Business Hours: 8:30 am to 6:30 pm (Monday to Saturday)
Location: Commonwealth Dr., Chalan Pale Arnold Rd. next to Sugar King Park

PATA Micronesia seeks CNMI members

The Pacific Asia Travel Association, or PATA, is seeking new members for its Micronesia chapter.

Founded in Honolulu in 1951, PATA is an international, nonprofit membership organization whose mission is to contribute to the growth, value, and quality of travel and tourism to and within the Pacific-Asia area on behalf of its members. Today, PATA is a global organization, covering over one third of the globe and represented through dozens of regional and satellite chapters. The PATA Micronesia Chapter was established in 1986 as a result of increasing tourism interests within the region.

The mission statement of PATA Micronesia is "to assist in the development of our regional tourism industry with strategies that are environmentally sensitive, respect Micronesian cultures, adhere to high operational standards, and provide opportunity for education, training, and gainful employment among the resident populations of our Micronesian membership."

Currently, the Chapter consists of national tourist offices from the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Federated States of Micronesia, as well as industry members from throughout the Micronesia region.

Membership dues are based on different categories.

The membership period runs from Jan. 1, 2013, to Dec. 31, 2013. Benefits of membership include access to exclusive and valuable data, opportunities to showcase destinations and/or products, airline discounts on travel to tri-annual meetings and trade shows, training opportunities, and more.

The next PATA Micronesia tri-annual meeting is scheduled to take place on Saipan on May 15-16, 2013.

For more information about the upcoming PATA Micronesia Chapter and membership application, contact Judy C. Torres at jtorres@mymarianas.com or Lou Aguon-Schulte at dgpres@gmail.com. ***(PATA)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Grants workshop on Tinian

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council will be conducting a workshop in Tinian on Tuesday, May 14. The workshop will focus on the council's Community Grants Program and will take place at the Tinian Junior/Senior High School Library at 5pm.

Since 1992, the Council has awarded competitive matching grants to the public through its Community Grants Program. Past Council funded projects have used a variety of formats including conferences, panel discussions, translation of documents, and teacher enrichment seminars. The workshop is free and open to all Tinian residents.

For more information, contact Eulalia Villagomez at 235-4785. ***(PR)***

MHS, SSHS, and KHS Class of '03 Meeting

The Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, and Kagman High School Alumni Class of 2003 is inviting all classmates to a mandatory meeting on May 15, 2013, at 6:30pm at Rayna Camacho's residence on Capitol Hill. On the agenda is the upcoming joint 10th year reunion of 2003 classmates to be held in July.

For more information and/or directions, call Caroline Camacho at 789-3730, Rayna Camacho t 483-7769, or Ricky Itibus at 483-7104. We started as one, divided into three, and now let's be reunited as a Class of 2003! ***(PR)***

Memorial Week proclamation signing

There will be a Memorial Week proclamation for Memorial Day on May 20, 2013, at 2pm, at the Office of the Governor's conference room.

On May 27, 2013, the CNMI will be remembering its fallen heroes at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi at 9am. All veterans, active and reserved military personnel, family members of departed veterans, and the general public are invited to come and join us for this proclamation signing. ***(PR)***

Health and safety trainings

The American Red Cross is scheduled to conduct Preparedness Health & Safety trainings on the following dates:

- May 15 at 6pm: Adult CPR/AED
- May 16 at 6pm: Pediatric CPR/AED
- May 25 at 8am: Adult CPR/AED

Classes are held at the chapter training room on Airport Road. Blended Learning courses involve online courses with in-person skills exam and require at least 48-hour preregistration. Course fees apply. For more information on the courses listed or other certification courses, contact the chapter office at 234-3459. ***(ARC)***

Veterans outreach today, tomorrow

This is to inform all veterans that Tina San Agustin, the senior veteran's service representative, and Lee Stahli, veteran's service representative from Guam and the CNMI, will be on Saipan today, May 9, 2013, and tomorrow, May 10, 2013, for a veterans outreach on veterans' federal benefits.

San Agustin and Stahli will be available today from 9am to 4:30pm and on Friday from 8am to 3:30pm, both at Ruth Coleman's office at Suite 206 of the Marina Height Building II.

For further information, contact Bernie B. Dela Cruz at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs at (670) 664-2650/59. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DEQ-111

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 28, 2013 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIROMENTAL QUALITY- ROTA BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARCTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) – (D).

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PARTS, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting
The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on
Friday, May 24th, 2013 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office,
2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan
(Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of April 18, 2013 minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings
1. Conditional Use Application #2011-6268. Ms. Eleanor B. Alinas-Loste of Marianas Pacific Foods, LLC is proposing to operate a catering, as well as the processing and packaging of chips and other food items. This use is classified as Manufacturing and Processing and is located on lot 009 L 10/ 11, San Antonio, in a Village Commercial zoning district.
2. Conditional Use Application #2011-6272. Mr. Young Chul Lee of Musung Corporation (Heaven II) is proposing to expand the current resort operation (formerly held by O2 Scuba and Resort Co.) by constructing additional fifteen (15) 2 storey dwelling units. This use is classified as Hotel/ Motel and is situated on Tract No. 22667-2, As Denni, in a Rural zoning district.
3. Conditional Use Application #2011-6305. Mr. Do Yeon Kim of Phillip's Corporation, Inc. is proposing to operate ATV (All Terrain Vehicle) outdoor activities at Ladder Beach and Obyan areas. This use is classified as Amusement, Outdoor and its office is located on Lot 011 L 03, within Coral Ocean Point Resort Club's premise in Koblerville. These areas are within the Tourist Resort and Rural zoning districts.

C. Communications/ Reports
D. Old Business.
1. Update on the Zoning Law of 2013
2. Discussion on Zoning Overlay Districts

E. New Business
1. Office operations report

F. Executive (Closed) Session.
G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
for
Heaven II Scuba & Resort

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request to amend a Conditional Use Permit. Mr. Young Chul Lee of Musung Corporation (Heaven II) is proposing to expand the current resort operation (formerly held by O2 Scuba and Resort Co.) by constructing additional fifteen (15) 2 storey dwelling units. This use is classified as Hotel/ Motel and is situated on Tract No. 22667-2, As Denni, in a Rural zoning district.

Date: **May 24, Friday**
Time: **5:00 pm**
Place: **Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan**

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, May 22, 2013. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 9, 2004

Govt names 5 to NMI-CUC talks

The government had identified five officials who would represent it in the ongoing negotiation with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to resolve pending problems over unpaid utility bills accrued by different government offices. In a letter to CUC executive director Lorraine Babauta, Finance Secretary Fermin Atalig disclosed that Robert Schwalbach, Estrellita S. Ada, Rufin Inos of Revenue and Taxation, James Stump and Joseph Taijeron of the Office of the Attorney General, Robert Schrack of the Department of Finance, and Antoinette Calvo of the Treasury Division would represent the CNMI government in the panel. Fermin also urged the utility agency to identify their representatives so that the outstanding issues are resolved immediately.

'Stateless kids' list being verified for authenticity

The CNMI government is now working closely with the House of Representatives to verify and authenticate more than 300 names of individuals who have submitted documents to show proof that they are "stateless." Gov. Juan N. Babauta said the CNMI would be submitting the list to Congress at the end of the month when he meets with U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, chairman of the House subcommittee on Wellness and Human Rights. "We are working closely with Rep. Clyde Norita in determining the complete list of the stateless individuals in the CNMI. It is being verified right now and I would hand carry it to representative Burton this month," said the governor.

May 9, 2005

MPLA: No beef with Verizon

The Marianas Public Lands Authority has defended itself against an accusation that it is harassing Verizon by insisting on imposing a fee for underground utility cables. MPLA public information officer Ed Arriola Jr. maintained that the agency maintains a good business relationship with Verizon. "I've heard from people, even read in the paper, that MPLA is harassing Verizon. That is not true. I'm not going to speak for Verizon. But I can say that MPLA, in its dealings with Verizon, will continue to act in good faith. There's never been any fallout between MPLA and Verizon," Arriola said.

Attao pushes for $11M appropriation for WGI, retro pay

Saipan congressman Jesus Attao is calling for a conference committee on the bill that appropriates funds for within-grade increase, retroactive pay, and medical and healthcare. This after the House rejected over a week ago the senate amendments that were made to House Bill 14-304, which he earlier introduced. Attao, in an interview, said that he would push for the approval of the original bill, which is to appropriate $10.9 million for fiscal year 2005 to raise government employees' salary, pay off retroactive compensation as well as retirement and health insurance contribution. The bill originally wanted to source the money from the additional revenues identified by the Babauta administration for FY 2005.

May 9, 2006

'Proposals will bankrupt Fund'

The Fitial administration's laundry list of proposals relating to the NMI Retirement Fund would lead to serious legal problems and the possible bankruptcy of the Fund, said its officials. Fund officials said that the proposals-to write off the government's $124-million unfunded liability with the Retirement Fund, suspend its payment of employer contribution this fiscal year, tap $40 million revenue bond from the Fund, and stop funding the group health insurance program-would tip the Fund toward insolvency. "The Fund would lose because there's nothing to invest. There's already a huge loss because we don't have it [the money owed by the government to the Fund]. It would be worse if you forgive it," said Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes in an interview.

SCC wants CDA writeoff bill vetoed

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has called on Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to veto a bill that aims to write off the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s debt with the Commonwealth Development Authority. "The governor [has] informed everyone that the CNMI government is broke. A week or so later, our Legislature passed a bill that would eliminate CUC's debt to CDA. This means we have so much money to throw away, let's just forgive each and every debt there is to the government," said Chamber president Charles V. Cepeda.

Labor certifies 35 US eligible workers as 'job ready'

»First batch of 1,300 applicants completes job training program

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Some of the 35 individuals that completed the Department of Labor's job training program gather for a group photo yesterday with Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas and other Labor staff and guests in front of Labor's Office on Capital Hill.

The Department of Labor certified yesterday as "job ready" 35 individuals that recently completed its job training program for U.S. eligible workers.

Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas and Division of Employment Service director Alfred A. Pangelinan presented the successful trainees with certificates of completion during a brief ceremony at Labor's office on Capital Hill.

San Nicolas congratulated the trainees and vowed that the department will continue assisting U.S. qualified workers get employed.

"I encourage people to avail of the job training program," he said. "I will encourage your relatives and friends to come so we can also assist them."

San Nicolas said that Pangelinan, who initiated the program, was aided by acting job placement officer Manning Iguel and other Labor staff to conduct the training over a period of several months.

San Nicolas said that Pangelinan did a great job in getting the applicants ready for gainful employment and promised that the program will continue.

Pangelinan said the program started in November 2012 and that 1,300 have already registered.

He said the 35 successfully completed all eight phases of the daily training.

The training includes identifying work career interest, identifying job skills, job matching, identifying basic adaptive skills, verbal and nonverbal communication, workplace basics, customer service skills, job inquiry letter, job follow-up letter, thank you letter, coping with work challenges, job interview skills, and résumé writing.

He said the second batch, composed of 28 trainees, are expected to soon complete the training.

Seeing the first batch complete the program, Pangelinan said: "I feel good."

He said the program was at first a challenge, particularly with those who had attitude problems. Some were not serious about it but soon got excited as the training went along, he said.

Pangelinan described the successful trainees as "cultivated, determined U.S. eligible workers" and advised them not to get discouraged when looking for jobs.

He said that Labor will call employers to help successful trainees get jobs. "We will market you," he added.

One of the trainees, Norma Carayoan, 47, said she learned a lot of things from the training and, as a result, was hired last April 24 by Topline Commercial Cleaning.

At the ceremony, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs deputy secretary Rhonda Nogis, Workforce Investment Agency director Edith Deleon Guerrero, and Kanoa Resort Saipan Human Resources manager Joe Ada gave brief inspirational remarks.

Labor administrative manager Bobby T. Sablan was also present, along with other Labor staff involved in the program.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) to limit hiring to qualified US workers, as restricted by CNMI law, and that equal opportunity be given to all qualified US worker applicants regardless of age, sex or sexual orientation, religion, marital status, political status, veterans status, disability or place of origin.

Opening Date: 04/15/13 **Closing Date:** Continuous*

JVA#13-001:	Marketing Specialist III (Japan Market)
Pay Level / Step:	29/01 – 29/08
Annual Salary:	$21,506.41 – 30,246.74**
Location:	Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan
JVA#13-003:	Marketing Specialist II (China Market)
Pay Level / Step:	27/01 – 27/07
Annual Salary:	$19,511.46 - $26,131.39**
Location:	Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan
JVA#13-004:	Clerk III
Pay Level / Step:	12/04
Annual Salary:	$11,681.76
Location:	Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan
JVA#13-005:	Community Projects Assistant
Pay Level / Step:	17/01 – 17/08
Annual Salary:	$12,431.54 - $17,482.77**
Location:	Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan
JVA#13-006:	Trades Helper
Pay Level / Step:	11/05 – 11/06
Annual Salary:	$11,681.76 - $12,264.90**
Location:	Marianas Visitors Authority, Tinian

*If not filled, the vacancy announcement will be continued and applications will be reviewed every two weeks thereafter until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day.
** The salary given will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.

Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 for more detailed information on position description. A completed application must be submitted together with the required documents for consideration until search is closed. A resume may be attached, but the application form must be filled out in full. MVA is an equal opportunity employer.

Commonwealth Zoning Board
(Saipan Zoning Office)
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Two (2) Zoning Officers

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the positions of Zoning Officers. These are full-time positions on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Duties and Responsibilities: Process permit applications including reviewing applications for compliance, tracking timelines and public notice requirements, coordinating interagency consultations, and preparing written recommendations; Conduct field surveys and inspections for compliance with the Zoning Law and to collect land use information; Educate and inform the public and applicants about the zoning program and permit requirements; Gather information to update the GIS; Maintain detailed records of all actions, using paper and electronic media; Update permit information on the database; Other duties as required.

Minimum Requirements: Graduation from an accredited two-year college or university with an AA Degree. The following professional experience may substitute for the AA Degree: A minimum of 3 years of experience in any combination of land use planning, zoning, public administration, public health, business management, public policy, natural resource management, environmental management, land management, or related field; Proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Explorer. Other desired experiences include ability to drive a stick-shift car and to walk into construction sites and across rough terrain; Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing; Ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends; Ability to speak in Chamorro or Carolinian a plus. Applicant must have a valid CNMI Driver's License.

The salary is $28,000.00. Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Information about the Zoning Board and the Zoning Office may be viewed at the Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp. Application submittals should be addressed to Theresa T. Ogumoro, Zoning Administrator. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application For Employment, a resume, and police clearance. The Application for Employment may be downloaded from the publications page of the Zoning Board website. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or immediate relatives. Please Send submittals to: E-mail: Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp or by Hand Delivery to Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

The deadline to receive applications and all requirements is Friday, May 24, 2013 at 4:30pm.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

Dying for the shirt on your back

By RICHARD GREENWALD and MICHAEL HIRSCH
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The deaths of more than 600 garment workers in Bangladesh's Rana Plaza factory collapse April 24 is a tragedy that highlights widespread problems in the global apparel industry. But will it be the spark that finally leads to much-needed global reforms?

After disasters like Rana, or the fire at another Bangladeshi garment factory in November that killed 112 people, there is a tendency to play detective, to focus on the culprit, whether it be the owner, corruption or lax laws and missing enforcement. News article after news article focuses on finding the smoking gun, as if there were only one cause and as if minus that cause, those workers would be safe today. Or coverage treats these tragedies as natural disasters with a rush of charity before public attention turns to the next event.

Yes, we seek justice. But in our rush to solve the case or help the victims, we refuse to see the real culprits: the global apparel industry and ourselves for being complicit in supporting or ignoring a system of trade and offshoring largely designed to bypass regulatory policy of every stripe, while putting maximum profit before people.

According to Boston College sociology professor Juliet Schor, the cost of apparel in real dollars has fallen 39 percent since 1994. We need to ask ourselves, to what extent is our demand for a $5 T-shirt or deep discounts on jeans responsible for disasters like this?

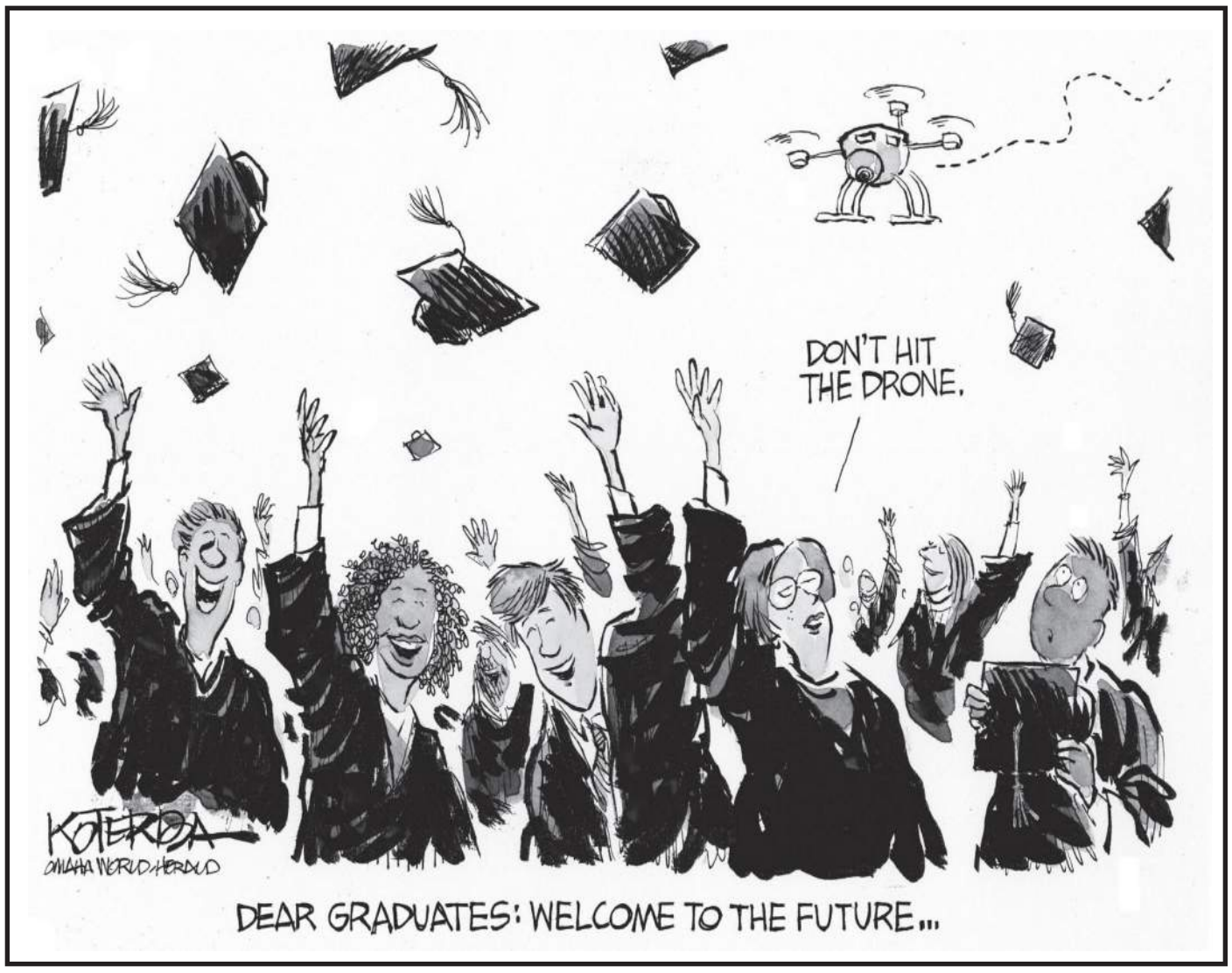
The Rana disaster has been compared to the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire in New York City. Both were at garment factories, and both resulted in many deaths (146 in Triangle). The Triangle fire has remained in our collective memories and has become a stand-in for the terrible problems of an industrializing nation. We remember it not because of the deaths—as workers sadly died regularly in American industry—but because we were made to confront it. Garment workers refused to silently go back to work. Their massive protests and collective anger forced middle-class consumers to see their own culpability, and together they sought political change.

This change brought new safety and health codes, labor law reforms and modern regulations to an often primitive industry. What started as reforms for garment workers ended as reforms for all workers in New York and made the state a model for the nation. The simple fact that all of this was the result of workers exercising their rights gets missed in the telling of the Triangle story, as too much attention is paid to chained doors or building code violations, some of which is or becomes urban myth and deflects from the truth.

Of course we cannot ignore the building or business owner's responsibility or that of local officials. But if that is all we focus on, we delude ourselves about the real issues. The industry is in many ways unchanged from 1911. It is still fiercely competitive, with razor-slim margins. It is still dominated by a subcontracting system. Today, large retailers and labels contract production to manufacturers because they own no facilities themselves. These contractors then subcontract to others, shaving a little off the top as their margin.

The distance between the label and those making the garment is great and often unknown, cloaked in layers. Each layer lives on the ability to hire cheaper and cheaper labor to make its margin. The locations of these factories have changed, but the

See DYING on Next Page



Dia de Mama mia

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

March 8 was International Women's Day, which reminded China of its old saying that "Women hold half of the sky" *(nv ren neng ding ban bien tian),* revived during Mao's watch but has since become a cynical female adage as patriarchy reigns over Zhongguo's commercial skies.

If the March day is ideological, May 12, Sunday, for Mamas is strictly carnation, cake, and chocolate. That is what's coming up this Sunday and the Chinese merchants are all ready to provide the Hallmark-like greeting cards, along with stems of red roses, and a restaurant table for three at the corner for "me (single-child families), daddy, and thee!" (Ah, but the AmCham consultants have all been just too successful!)

My Mama will probably sit by her lonesome at a Kuakini medical care facility in Oahu's Honolulu, nursing brittle bones prone to crack at 93 this September, until one or all of my three siblings drop by for a visit, along with any available grandchildren. One of my children has religiously kept an eye on grandma, herself a student, relatively newlywed to a doctoral grad student at the university, so she has her own domestic and academic issues to deal with.

My Mama, across the international dateline a few hours away from me, in my memory, is a vivid creature of my childhood. A devout Roman Catholic, she married her next-door neighbor, a Methodist theolog in WWII Manila, when her aunt who lived across the city's choice lots around Luneta Park—a lady of aristocratic bearing married to one of Iloilo's wealthy landlords—advised her that the frequent Japanese officers at her dining table had taken a fancy to her.

Foreswearing deep religious prejudices (*Protestante,* in Ilocano, was often rhymed in children's taunts with *buris tak-ki*—of diarrheal excrements), she took off to the melee of agrarian Central Luzon with an intellectual effete (my Dad is the runt of a family of 11 who spoiled him to no end and was actually only two years older than his first niece), whose namesake I carry as the firstborn son.

It was a decade later in the mouth of the Cagayan River in northern Luzon at the port delta city of Aparri that I witnessed my mother's practicality. Papa's work with the church was cash-strapped, as often, the faithful gave their tithe in kind if they had anything to share at all, but five kids needed to be draped annually in new fineries (Mama's bourgeoisie taste), not to mention the cost of school supplies.

So, consigning the three younger siblings to my elder sister's and my care, she would get up very early in the morning with two big aluminum buckets, hightail it to the river wharf where the fishermen unloaded their night's catch, fill up her buckets with fresh fish, cover it with newly chopped ice, and load it on a bus heading south inland of the river plains eight hours away to Nueva Viscaya (before the bus hits the Cordilleras on its way to Manila). In Bayombong, her *suki* (customer) would take the load off her pans at wholesale price, and tired but pleased Mama returned on another eight-hour bus ride home, after a three-day investment in time and effort for her family's cash requirements.

This while Papa obliviously pored over his concordance so he can explicate further in his weekly sermons on the finer points of scriptural passages dear to the heart of his Christian Wesleyan and Reformation tradition. But not unlike any sensible rabbi, he raised his chickens, ducks, two goats, and two pigs around two backyard fishponds so their droppings fertilized the algae that were the mainstay of the freshwater *tilapia* (aka cherry snapper, lemon snapper, Nile perch, red and blue hybrids or St. Peter's fish) diet.

The dredged silt at the pond's bottom was distributed around the lettuce (he could not plant enough for the local expat's market demand) and the *petchay (bok choi* in China, which is also "greens" elsewhere with the spinach) that is a favorite ladled-veggie into the milkfish sour soup. Along with bell peppers, eggplants, radishes, and the leeks, all these he brought into abundance in the sandy soil of a delta town!

(It did not take much to understand ecological cycle when we got to high school science.)

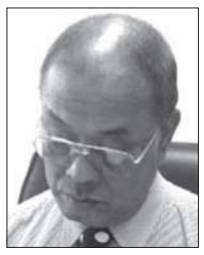
Papa was Mama's senior by eight years, and he joined at 94 the throng lying in rest at Oahu's Mililani in 2006. Mother quietly waits her turn and though she retains her independent dwelling at an elders' apartment on Aala St., it has become obvious since last year that she needed 7/24 assisted care to stay in relatively good health.

In some places, Mother's Day is also parents' day, and by my account on the foregoing, it is Mama *y* Papa's ordinary practicality in memory that stays alive in my recollection. Of course, our local commercial attachés would prefer a separation of mother and father's days to spread the renminbi around further.

This Sunday, in a country where filial piety is no mean cursory practice, the children will be sending their mothers all forms of symbols and variations of what is taken as *wo ai ni!* The parenting of Mama and Papa will stay on my mind this Sunday as we observe a prolonged moment of solemn silence and respectful bow at the altar of filial piety!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Matcha kontra kanset



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Guine gi ma'pos na semana, megai mañaunau gi "March Against Cancer." Todu felis ayu na dinaña ni makondukta tula noche. Na'magof lokue' i nina' halom moneda ginen gineftau todus.

'Nai matutuhon i matchan inetnon tropa, estaba gi kanton fila un' patgon palao'an sige mañeñas mientras sige lokue' tuhu lago'ña. Ha gomgum karasonhu i tañgeñgesña i patgon buente lamayot patte pot matai kanset lokue' si nanaña.

Sumen makat na chenot para maseha haye na familia gi katkuet manera. Deste attension todus, gastu yan i uttimu suspiros 'nai humanau i malañgu. Mafaposgue este ni dos hagahu 'nai matai lokue' si nanan niha pot kanset. Sumen makat na mattiru.

■■■

Kreneansan Patgon

Un tiempu, hu li'e un' amku ha godde 'nos kuantos birada tinanom nigas. Sumen pasensia 'nai sige ha dobla i ramas siha. Ha pega gi hatdin tatten guma' ya ha assiste mauleg.

Hu atetuye kume komprende haf' bidaña. Un' dia dispues ha esplika na kulan un' patgon ni lumachok gi hatdin lina'la'. "Siña un' esgaihon kinahulo'ña taimanu ha' i ramas siha ni hu godde alamle".

I difirensia gaige na i patgon finañagu ni kalalamten. I troñkun nigas sumaga ha' gi taimanu 'nai magodde gi sagaña. Obligasion saina pumipet ennau na patgon estake u gacha' echu tautau.

Chatmiyu fan malelefa na haf' mañaña i patgomu prefektu espehos giya hagu ni saina. U anog ennau na maña 'nai ha diñgu i pettan sanmena.

Ennau na finañagu mauleg na prohimu ni sumasaunau umasegura na ti hana' mamahlau i mañainaña. Mas rason para ta ayudague' i patgon piot gi dinikike'ña.

Haye amigumu?

Ilegña i man-amku', "Sañgane-yu' haye amigumu ya bai' sañgane hau haf' hau na klasen tautau". Sumen magahet este na finu' niha. Yangin sake gachoñg-mu siempre un' saunau mañake 'sino haf sessu hinassun i gachoñg-mu diariu.

Pot metgot i tentasion gi este na patte gi ha'anen famaguon-ta na sumen mauleg tafanu'e siha haf sustansian mauleg na kompania. 'An kilisyanu amiguña ni makreansa mauleg ni mañainaña siempre u mauleg lokue' konduktaña maseha manu gi katkuet ora. Yangin ti fitme mafanagueña ni mañainaña, pues libianu sulun halom gi fache' man-tailaye siha na che'chu' muron.

Lamegai sumusede linetgun lataduñg na hoyu pot ti mañgilisyanu kompanian niha.

■■■

Tanu' chat-konsiste

Buente ti naturat natibu i frañku na ekspressiu gi haf' hinassoña layeye pot respetu gi otru. Hu komprende este piot gi halom mañaina-ta 'nai guaha mas ineskohe gi palabran niha. Lamayot patte na taiguine pot no umana' puti maseha haye na prohimu piot i maninosiente.

Lau gi ge'hilu' na eskalera, guaha lokue' siña manadiñgan antau ya malabla hau palabras gi hilu' pinasensia ya ni hagu mismu ti un' tuñgu' na masablasus hau. Kase i usun palabra gaige gi idat yan ekspirensian man-amko'ta ni sessu hu atetuye pot para bai' eyag lokue' finu' pinasensia.

Esta gaigeyu' gi tutuhon este na eskalera. Gi pagugu ha', inipus huna' kuatdrau mampos kuatdranteghu lau naturat-hu sumañgan klaru yan tunas haf' gaige hinasoghu. Muñga na bai' chalegua'-yu' kulan ambassadot ginen sasalaguan.

Adumidide' siña mas hu eksisia pinasensia. Mauleg para guahu yan prohimuhu. Lau ti bai' seha sumañgan frañkamiente sentimentoghu.

■■■

Kulan-yu' i guatdian i sagua' gi asuntun linahyan. Ti todu sentimentoghu u faburable yan i publiku. Este hu komprende lau memegaiña besis lokue' na hafa hu pluma gaige ya hululu' i interes tautau-ta siha. Pot ginefli'ehu ni tautau-ta na sessu hu mattityu piot gi mansustansiau siha na asuntu.

Yangin haye gi halom man-ma-elihe ti konfotme, dispensayon sa' ti parehu offisiota piot 'nai mattu gi attikulun linahyan. Lau todu pot todu, kinayon para ta adelanta tunas yan propiu linala' i tautau-ta siha.

■■■

Mattu-yu' gi fina' lehñgun na halom tanu' 'nai hu soda man-lala' homlu' i troñkun lagñgayao. Mesklan betde yan amariyu kulot hagun niha ni sige matatiye guinaifen mañglu'.

Hu guiguife pumega un' dikiki' na guma' maseha para bai' apprubecha katen paluma gi dineku yan minachom atdau, pañgpañg suabe na mañglu', yan paupau na tininon guihan gi feggun sanhiyuñg. Esta hana' masa'yu' kau i hulili'e kabales na hatdin paraisu. Gatbu na lugat.

DYING

From Page 10

system remains. Our clothes come from places like Rana, where the average worker is, as in 1911, a young girl working in terrible conditions for starvation wages.

Soon after the Triangle fire, at a memorial gathering, union activist Rose Schneiderman rose to address the mostly middle-class crowd. Her words should strike a chord today: "Every week I must learn of the untimely death of one of my sister workers. Every year thousands of us are maimed. The life of men and women is so cheap and property is so sacred. There are so many of us for one job, it matters little if 146 of us are burned to death. We have tried you citizens; we are trying you now, and you have a couple of dollars for the sorrowing mothers, brothers and sisters by way of a charity gift. But every time the workers come out in the only way they know to protest against conditions which are unbearable, the strong hand of the law is allowed to press down heavily upon us."

Rana should be our global Triangle fire moment. It should force us to wake up and as consumers support the workers who make our clothes. It is our moral responsibility to demand that the labels we wear not be stitched in blood. To do nothing, to simply wait for the next tragedy, is to remain guilty as charged by Schneiderman in 1911.

Richard A. Greenwald, a professor of history and dean at St. Joseph's College in New York, is the author of Labor Rising: The Past and Future of Working People in America. *Michael Hirsch is a journalist and co-producer of the HBO documentary* Triangle: Remembering the Fire. *They wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Education vs intelligence: Do not be willingly ignorant!

"Ignorance of all things is an evil neither terrible nor excessive, not yet the greatest of all; but great cleverness and much learning, if they be accompanied by a bad training, are a much greater misfortune."—Plato

Never confuse education with intelligence. Students may study and learn but they may not have been educated. There is confusion among young people about education and intelligence, though there is a vast difference between the two. Both education and intelligence involve knowledge; however, they are ultimately different entities. Intelligence is defined as an innate ability to learn, attain, and use new knowledge. In other words, intelligence can be known as "book smarts." Education on the other hand, is an external exposure to knowledge outside one's cultural sphere of influence.

Somewhere in history, it was decided that every American should graduate with a high school education, which would later suffice when applying for a minimum wage job. Back then, high school education actually required hard work and intelligence, so they decided that every American should graduate with a high school diploma. The only way to accomplish that was to lower standards to where anybody could graduate high school.

The problem is very blatant in today's education. There is no motivation in learning for knowledge but rather motivation in learning for "grades." It is an endless measuring of a child's intelligence that is utterly ridiculous to make them believe that their intellectual capabilities depend on a certain letter (A, B, C, D, F). Not all students hate school, but those who hate school see school as a prison—where the purpose is not to learn but to factory-produce indoctrinated human beings who have had their creative powers sucked from them the moment they step into the school system.

We all have different abilities so why is a class full of individuals tested by the same means? Are we under an institution where majority of students are put under the same brainwashing techniques that furtively sets us up for work that could be automated? Are students in today's society meant to be outstanding test-takers rather than outstanding thinkers? If there is one thing I have learned from the past years of my education is TFYS: Think For Your Self. Our minds were made to think so that we would not be only walking bookshelves blurting out every formula or fact we know.

I believe that we should take our education seriously. Each person has their own learning style, and grades shouldn't be a self-fulfilling prophecy that continues on for the duration of a student's education. The No Child Left Behind law is also a mistake in today's educational system. This means that students with sub-par grades are being passed and we will end up with a generation of kids who are utterly undereducated.

A philosophy of education will determine what kind of education an individual receives. Those who want to receive an education must be warned of vain and deceptive philosophies that are based on human tradition and worldly principles. If they want true education, they should *not* be under a philosophy of education that enslaves them. We are all unique human beings so aren't we all deserving of something better, of using our minds for creativity rather than unavailing activity, for innovation, rather than memorization? We are not here to get a degree so we could then get a job, so we can consume industry-approved appeasement.

It saddens me to see that many students can read but not comprehend, and that many students "study" for the sake of having a number and letter on a piece of paper. In the end, grades do not matter but rather how you apply what you have learned by putting them into action—that is education. Education is for you to think. *To think* is to process information in order to form an opinion. If we are not critical when processing this information, are we really thinking? Or are we mindlessly accepting other opinions as truth? The saddest part is that many people have never came to the realization that they are willingly ignorant of the truth.

We are human beings. We are thinkers, dreamers, engineers, artists, doctors, writers. We are anything we want to be—but only with an educational system that supports us rather than holds us down. For those of you who succumbed to the indoctrination of your instructors, do not be disheartened. You still have the opportunity to stand up, ask questions, be critical, and create your own perspective. Overall, education is for you to not be enslaved.

Pearl Cataluna
San Vicente, Saipan

Yes we can!

Young citizens are not ignorant. We may not have the traditional understanding like the generations before us but we do know when it comes to anything, we don't back down, we simply reply with "Yes, we can!"

I say this because businesses and hotels claim that without alien labor, they won't survive. That is entirely false to begin with. Any of us young citizens are willing to be trained and do what any other human being can simply do and that is work to support themselves and their respective families.

The main thing I truly believe is a common practice by all businesses, whether big or small, is that they tell us, "No, you can't!" Simply rejecting us to begin with. Are you serious? Alien workers probably have the experience but before they reached that level, they started at the bottom with no experience at all and worked their way up. They got trained to do what anybody else can do.

Businesses need to give us the opportunity to prove ourselves and say that we are all the same. It takes a great amount of time to gain experience so I hope all businesses and hotels alike can say that if you put your time to invest in us young citizens, we take the time to be trained and probably train others and thus have the experience needed. In this island, I believe businesses must diversify. They must put their faith and trust in the young citizens of the CNMI and go out of bounds. I hope businesses will peruse our young citizens to help build a better Commonwealth so that everyone can enjoy the beautiful islands here that we all call home.

Reginald Lizama
Koblerville, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

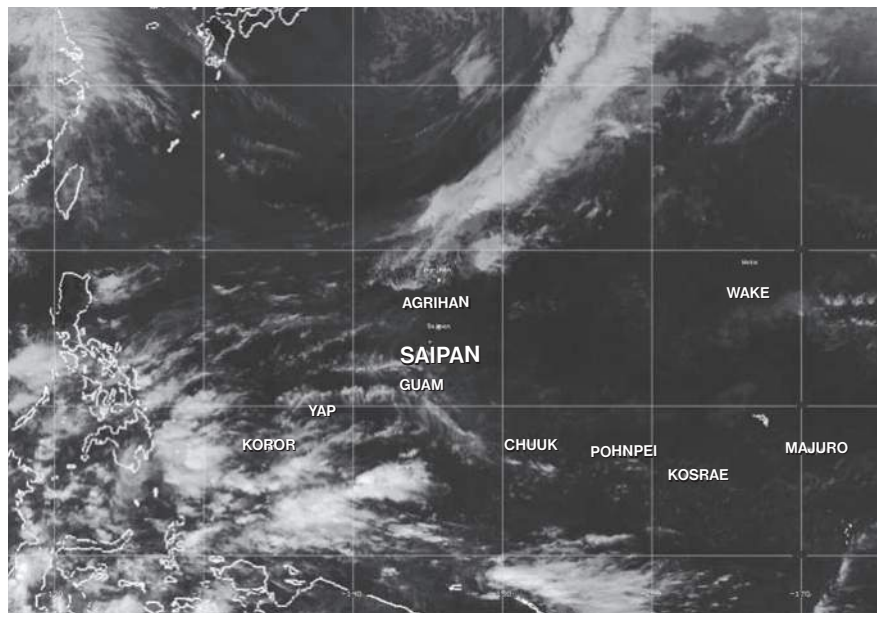
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88	▼82
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲92	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼81
Pohnpei	Sunny	▲87	▼80
Kosrae	Sunny	▲87	▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼57
Beijing	Sunny	▲83	▼58
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲80	▼75
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼72
London	Showers	▲57	▼46
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼57
Manila	Cloudy	▲93	▼84
Melbourne	Sunny	▲78	▼54
Miami	Sunny	▲86	▼68
New York	Rain	▲64	▼55
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼59
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼51
Pusan	Windy	▲71	▼58
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼59
Salem	Sunny	▲80	▼47
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼52
Seoul	Cloudy	▲71	▼58
Tokyo	Sunny	▲77	▼60
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲73	▼56

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front runs southwestward from north of Minami Tori Shima at 25N154E to 20N140E then continues as a shear line to beyond 19N130E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are along and up to 200 miles northwest of the cold front and within 50 miles of 19N148E. Mainly just widely scattered showers are seen near the shear line. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Palau and south of Yap between the equator and 9N from 130E to 140E and southeast of Yap between 4N and 6N from 141E to 144E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:13 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
7:31 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
2:41 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
9:19 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Friday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Monday	5:49 AM	6:38 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:02 AM	5:59 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	6:31 AM	7:40 PM
Sunday	7:18 AM	8:29 PM
Monday	8:06 AM	9:16 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

0Z608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z606	2:55am	6:35am	1
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z606/701	2:55am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

0Z606/721	2:55am	11:50am	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
0Z604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

0Z607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:00am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

0Z746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Business

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. *Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.*

Carefully deflect sales pitch from boss

QUESTION: The head of our department has been pressuring employees to purchase products from her husband, who recently began selling diet supplements through a multilevel marketing company. When I was invited to a "party" at their home to hear a sales pitch, I politely declined. But she still keeps trying to convince me to buy the products.

I feel that it's wrong for someone in a position of power to put this kind of pressure on employees. Although I have no intention of using these questionable supplements, I don't know how to refuse my boss without getting in trouble. Should I tell her how I feel or just complain to human resources?

ANSWER: Your boss's self-serving behavior is both unethical and unprofessional. No manager should ever try to sell anything to employees, including raffle tickets and Girl Scout cookies. The reason is simple: People fear saying no to the person who controls their performance appraisals and work assignments.

Admonishing the department head might damage your career, so a safer alternative is to simply keep repeating, "Thanks for asking, but I'm really not interested." Always deliver this response with a friendly smile, and never question the merits of the product. After awhile, she will turn her attention to more promising prospects.

A trip to human resources is only advisable if others share your concerns and agree to accompany you. When complaining about the boss, going with a group is much less risky than going alone.

■■■

Q: My son told me that he's being harassed at work because he looks Middle Eastern. Co-workers keep saying that he might be a terrorist or is related to Osama bin Laden. In fact, we are not even from the Middle East. I am Hispanic, my husband is German, and our son is an American citizen.

My son is very upset and wants to contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. I think we should try to solve the problem before taking such a drastic step, so I offered to call the owner and talk to him about this harassment. What's your opinion?

A: First of all, your son's mistreatment is inexcusable. Even if those bigoted co-workers said they were joking, there is absolutely nothing funny about calling someone a terrorist. Nevertheless, this is one of those tricky situations where the general principle and the specific case must be considered separately.

Your son has every right to complain to the EEOC, and his desire to do so is certainly justified. At the same time, however, he needs to understand that a discrimination investigation will not make his life easier at work. In fact, it will probably make things more difficult. That may not be fair, but it's reality.

Assuming that the owner is unaware of the harassment, giving him a chance to address the issue might be a better first step. But your son should be the one to initiate this discussion. Unless he is still in high school, a call from his mother could subject him to a completely different type of ridicule.

A new stock market milestone: Dow 15,000

NEW YORK (AP)—The Dow Jones industrial average punched through another milestone Tuesday, closing above 15,000 for the first time just two months after recovering the last of its losses from the 2008 financial crisis.

Good economic reports, strong corporate earnings and fresh support from central banks helped ease investor concerns about another economic slowdown. Many had been on the lookout for signs that a spring swoon would derail the rally, as happened in each of the past three years.

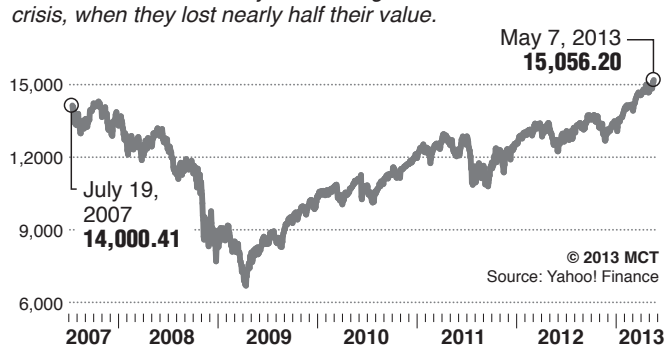
Instead, the Dow continued its epic ascent of 2013, which has seen it climb 1,952 points—almost 15 percent—since Jan. 1.

"The thing that's been driving stocks is rising confidence," said James Paulsen, chief investment strategist at Wells Capital Management. "Economic growth, job creation and the housing market have been better than expected."

The Dow closed at 15,056.20, up 87.31 points, or 0.6 percent. The Standard & Poor's 500 index added 8.46 points to a record 1,625.96, a gain of 0.5 percent. It has jumped 199 points this year, or 14 percent.

Another milestone

The benchmark Dow Jones industrial average closed above 15,000 for the first time, nearly six years after it first hit the 14,000 mark. Stocks have been steadily rebounding from the 2008 financial crisis, when they lost nearly half their value.



AP

A board on a trading post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange shows the Dow Jones industrial average with an intraday number above 15,000, Tuesday, May 7, 2013.

The record close extends the stock market's comeback from the depths of the financial crisis. Both indexes reached all-time highs earlier this year, then kept rising, largely driven by optimism that the U.S. economy will keep gaining strength.

"We don't think people are giving enough credit to the strength of the economy," said Ryan Detrick, a senior technical strategist at Schaeffer's Investment Research. "We still like the market."

Detrick said he was particularly encouraged by the resurgence in smaller stocks, which suggested a broad recovery beyond larger companies. The Russell 2000 index gained eight points to close at 967.82. It has risen 14 percent this year.

China reports stronger April trade growth

BEIJING (AP)—China's trade accelerated in April in a possible positive sign for its shaky economic recovery.

Exports rose 14.7 percent over a year earlier, up from March's 10 percent growth, customs data showed Tuesday. Imports gained 16.8 percent, up from the previous month's 14.1 percent.

The stronger data suggest growth of the world's second-largest economy might be improving after an unexpected decline to 7.7 percent in the first three months of the year from the previous quarter's 7.9 percent.

"Subdued actual export growth in April points to sluggish global demand," said RBS economists Louis Kuijs and Tiffany Qiu in a report. "Reasonable import growth suggests domestic demand has held up better so far."

Some analysts suggest Chinese trade data are distorted by reporting errors and unreliable as an economic indicator. Still, April's stronger numbers might help to reassure companies and investors after the weaker first-quarter growth jolted global financial markets.

Surveys by HSBC Corp. and a Chinese industry group showed Chinese manufacturing growth weakened in April. HSBC said new export orders fell for the first time this year.

Some analysts have warned China's recovery is being shored up by state-led investment and bank lending and could be vulnerable if trade or investment weakens. The weaker-than-expected first quarter numbers prompted the World Bank and private sector analysts to trim forecasts for full-year growth, though to still robust levels of about 8 percent.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
15,056.20	1,625.96	3,396.63
87.31	8.46	3.66
+0.58%	+0.52%	+0.11%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9819	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7611	Philippine Peso	40.86
British Pound	0.646	Indian Rupee	54.0955	Singapore Dollar	1.2314
Canadian Dollar	1.0052	Indonesian Rupiah	9735	South Korean Won	1088.4
Chinese Yuan	6.1524	Japanese Yen	98.97	Swiss Franc	0.9396
Euro	0.7638	Malaysian Ringgit	2.976	Taiwan Dollar	29.448
		New Zealand Dollar	1.1902	Thailand Baht	29.595

Nation

Police facing questions in 3 women's Ohio rescue

CLEVELAND (AP)—One neighbor says a naked woman was seen crawling on her hands and knees in the backyard of the house a few years ago. Another heard pounding on the home's doors and noticed plastic bags over the windows.

Both times, police showed up but never went inside, neighbors say. Police also paid a visit to the house in 2004, but no one answered the door.

Now, after three women who vanished a decade ago were found captive Monday at the run-down house, Cleveland police are facing questions for the second time in four years about their handling of missing-person cases and are conducting an internal review to see if they overlooked anything.

City Safety Director Martin Flask said Tuesday that investigators had no record of anyone calling about criminal activity at the house but were still checking police, fire and emergency databases.

The three women were rescued after one of them kicked out the bottom portion of a locked screen door and used a neighbor's telephone to call 911.

"Help me. I'm Amanda Berry," she breathlessly told a dispatcher in a call that exhilarated and astonished much of the city. "I've been kidnapped, and I've been missing for 10 years and I'm, I'm here, I'm free now."

Berry, 27, Michelle Knight, 32, and Gina DeJesus, about 23, had apparently been held captive in the house since their teens or early 20s, police Chief Michael McGrath said.

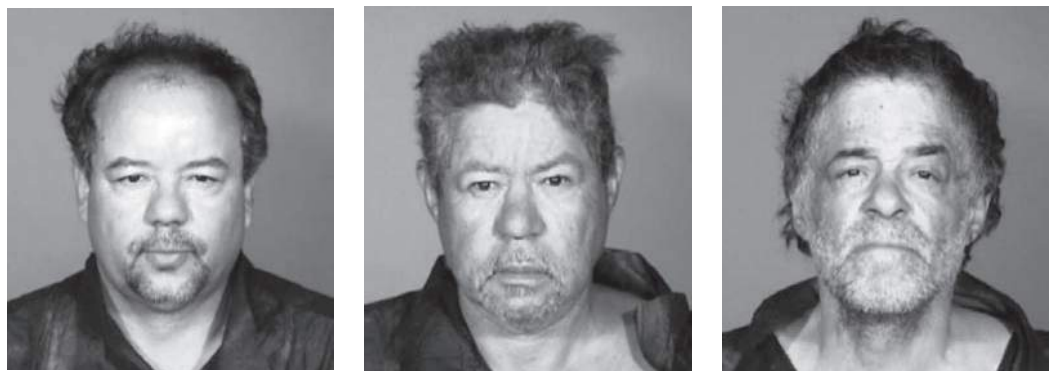
Three brothers, ages 50 to 54, were arrested. One of them, former school bus driver Ariel Castro, owned the home, situated in a poor neighborhood dotted with boarded-up houses just south of downtown. No charges were filed.

A relative of the three brothers said their family was "totally shocked" after hearing about the missing women being found at the home.

Juan Alicea said the arrests of his wife's brothers had left relatives "as blindsided as anyone else" in their community. He said he hadn't been to the home of his brother-in-law Ariel Castro since the early 1990s but had eaten dinner with Castro at a different brother's house shortly before the weeks before she went missing.

AP

Amanda Berry, right, hugs her sister Beth Serrano after being reunited in a Cleveland hospital Monday May 6, 2013.



AP

This undated photo released by the Cleveland Police Department shows, from left, Ariel Castro, Pedro J. Castro, and Onil Castro.

Lost decade
Three young Cleveland women who have been missing for about 10 years – Amanda Berry, Gina DeJesus and Michelle Knight – have been found alive. They apparently had been kidnapped by three brothers.
Cleveland
0.5 km
0.5 miles
Lake Erie
Cleveland
Detroit Ave.
W 117th St.
Clark Ave.
Lorain Ave.
Denison Ave.
Fulton Rd.
W. 25th St.
71
10
90
1
2
3
4
Missing women's history
1 Berry, now 27, last seen here in 2003
2 DeJesus, now 23, last seen here in 2004
3 Knight, now 32, last seen here in 2002
4 Women found in house on Seymour Ave.
Source: Cleveland Plain Dealer, ESRI
Graphic: Pat Carr
© 2013 MCT

arrests were made Monday.

A 6-year-old girl believed to be Berry's daughter also was found in the home, police Deputy Chief Ed Tomba said. He would not say who the father was.

The women were reported by police to be in good health and were reunited with joyous family members but remained in seclusion.

In eastern Tennessee, Berry's father, Johnny Berry, told WJHL-TV that he spoke to her for the first time Monday night by phone at his home in Elizabethton.

"She said, `Hi, Daddy, I'm alive,'" Johnny Berry said. "She said, `I love you, I love you, I love you,' and then we both started crying."

Although Amanda Berry was born and raised in Cleveland, her father, grandparents and cousins live in Elizabethton. Before she disappeared, she often visited Tennessee during the summers. Family members said they visited her in Cleveland about three

The head of the FBI in Cleveland, Stephen Anthony, said the families' prayers for the missing women had been answered.

"The nightmare is over," he said. "These three young ladies have provided us with the ultimate definition of survival and perseverance. The healing can now begin."

He added: "Words can't describe the emotions being felt by all. Yes, law enforcement professionals do cry."

Police would not say how the women were taken captive or how they were hidden in the neighborhood where they had vanished. Investigators also would not say whether they were kept in restraints inside the house or sexually assaulted.

Four years ago, in another poverty-stricken part of town, police were heavily criticized following the discovery of 11 women's bodies in the home and backyard of Anthony Sowell, who was later convicted of murder and sentenced to death.

The families of Sowell's victims accused police of failing to properly investigate the disappearances because most of the women were addicted to drugs and poor. For months, the stench of death hung over the house, but it was blamed on a sausage factory next door.

In the wake of public outrage over the killings, a panel formed by the mayor recommended an overhaul of the city's handling of missing-person and sex crime investigations.

This time, two neighbors said they called police to the Castro house on separate occasions.

Elsie Cintron, who lives three houses away, said her daughter saw a naked woman crawling in the backyard several years ago and called police. "But they didn't take it seriously," she said.

Another neighbor, Israel Lugo, said he heard pounding on some of the doors of the house in November 2011. Lugo said officers knocked on the front door, but no one answered. "They walked to side of the house and then left," he said.

"Everyone in the neighborhood did what they had to do," said Lupe Collins, who is close to relatives of the women. "The police didn't do their job."

ACROSS THE NATION

Delaware becomes 11th state with gay marriage

DOVER, Del. (AP)—Delaware became the 11th state in the nation to allow same-sex marriage when Democratic Gov. Jack Markell signed a gay marriage bill into law just minutes after its passage by the state Senate on Tuesday. "I do not intend to make any of you wait one moment longer," a smiling Markell told about 200 jubilant supporters who erupted in cheers and applause following the 12-9 Senate vote barely half an hour earlier. "Delaware should be, is and will be a welcoming place to live and love and to raise a family for all who call our great state home," Markell said. Delaware's same-sex marriage bill was introduced in the Democrat-controlled legislature barely a year after the state began recognizing same-sex civil unions.

Colorado shootings suspect to enter insanity plea

DENVER (AP)—The man accused in the deadly Colorado theater shootings wants to change his plea to not guilty by reason of insanity, his lawyers said Tuesday, despite their fears that the plea could severely hamper his ability to mount a defense against the death penalty. James Holmes is charged with more than 160 counts of murder and attempted murder in the July 20 assault on a packed Aurora movie theater that killed 12 and injured 70. Prosecutors announced last month they would seek the death penalty. Holmes was widely expected to plead insanity given the compelling evidence against him, but his attorneys put it off for weeks, saying state laws on the death penalty and insanity overlap in ways that violate his constitutional rights and his ability to mount an effective defense.

Ex-SC governor Sanford back in office

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)—Four years after scandal derailed his political career, ex-Republican Gov. Mark Sanford once again holds a South Carolina political office, winning back his old congressional seat Tuesday after a race in which he battled his past and an opponent who outdid him in fundraising. Sanford's resurrection was completed when he defeated Democrat Elizabeth Colbert Busch, the sister of political satirist Stephen Colbert, in a district that hasn't elected a Democratic congressman in more than three decades. With all precincts reporting, Sanford had about 54 percent of the vote.

GOP: Stronger borders or immigration bill will die

WASHINGTON (AP)—Landmark immigration legislation is doomed to fail in Congress unless border-security provisions are greatly strengthened, Republican senators bluntly warned on Tuesday.

"If in fact the American people can't trust that the border is controlled, you're never going to be able to pass this bill," declared Sen. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, top Republican on the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

His admonishment, joined by those of other GOP lawmakers, came as both Democratic and Republican senators filed a flurry of amendments ahead of the first votes Thursday in a separate committee on the far-reaching bill to deal with an estimated 11 million immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally and the millions more who might be expected to try to enter in the future. Some of the amendments could destroy the legislation's prospects by upending the carefully crafted deal negotiated over months by four Republican and four Democratic senators, supporters say.

Border security was the major sticking point on Tuesday.

"If we're going to get immigration reform through, if you're going to get it through the House, we're going to have to do a whole lot more on what is the definition of a controlled border than what is in this bill," said Coburn.

Sens. Rand Paul, R-Ky., and Ron Johnson, R-Wis., voiced similar concerns at a hearing to examine border security provisions of the bill. One of the legislation's authors, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., has already acknowledged that the bill will face a tough road to passage if those elements are not made stronger, and in a statement Tuesday he welcomed possible changes.

"In order for this bill to become law, it will have to be improved to bolster border security and enforcement even further and to limit the federal government's discretionary power in applying the law," Rubio said.

Asia

Obama, SKorea show united front against Pyongyang

WASHINGTON (AP)—Projecting a united front, President Barack Obama and South Korea's new leader warned North Korea on Tuesday against further nuclear provocations, with Obama declaring that the days when Pyongyang could "create a crisis and elicit concessions" were over.

Obama also disputed the notion that his cautious response to reported chemical weapons use in Syria—a move he had said would cross a "red line"—could embolden North Korea's unpredictable young leader and other U.S. foes.

"Whether it's bin Laden or Gadhafi, if we say we're taking a position, I would think at this point the international community has a pretty good sense that we typically follow through on our commitments," Obama said, referring to the al-Qaida commander Osama bin Laden and former Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, both of whom were killed during Obama's watch.

Tuesday's meetings between Obama and South Korean President Park Geun-hye followed months of increased tensions on the Korean Peninsula. North Korea conducted an underground atomic test in February and had appeared ready for another. New U.S. intelligence assessments also showed for the first time that North Korea may have the know-how to launch a nuclear-armed missile, though American officials say Pyongyang still appears to lack the capability to carry out an attack.

Ahead of Tuesday's talks, the North appeared to send mixed messages. U.S. officials said Pyongyang removed from a launch pad a set of medium-range ballistic missiles that had been readied for possible test-firing. But North Korea also warned the U.S. and South Korea that it would retaliate if joint military exercise between the two allies resulted in any shells landing on its territory.

Speaking at a joint news conference at the White House, Obama and Park warned Pyongyang of unspecified consequences if it pressed ahead with provocative actions, with Obama vowing to protect the U.S. and its allies using both "conventional and nuclear forces."

Still, in keeping with their countries' long-standing policies, the two leaders left open the possibility of direct negotiations should the North signal its readiness to end its nuclear pursuits or take other meaningful actions.

"Should North Korea choose the path to becoming a responsible member of the community of nations, we are willing to provide assistance, together with the international community," Park said.

Analysts see some of North Korea's recent bluster as an attempt by the country's new leader, Kim Jong Un, to establish himself as a power player, both within his own country and in the international community. Obama said he knew little about Kim personally and has never spoken to him, but added that his actions were leading him down a dead end.

AP

President Barack Obama and South Korea President Park Geun-Hye shake hands at the end of a news conference in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, May 7, 2013.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bangladesh opposition enforces nationwide shutdown

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Thousands of security officials are patrolling the streets of Bangladesh's capital to prevent violence as the main opposition party and its 17 allies try to enforce a daylong national strike. The opposition is calling for changes to the election process. Local media is reporting that at least three homemade bombs have been set off in Dhaka during Wednesday's shutdown. No injuries have been reported. Opposition spokesman Shamsuzzaman Dudu accused authorities of detaining some opposition activists in parts of the country. Schools and most businesses were shut in Dhaka and traffic was thin. The opposition wants a caretaker government to oversee national elections due early next year.

Bombing connected to election kill 18 in Pakistan

PARACHINAR, Pakistan (AP)—Three bombings in northwest Pakistan targeting individuals involved in this week's national elections killed 18 people, police said, pushing the death toll from attacks on candidates and party workers to over 100 since the beginning of April. Two of Tuesday's attacks targeted candidates from Islamist parties, indicating a new trend in the pre-election violence, which had only plagued secular parties before this week. The Pakistani Taliban have claimed responsibility for many of the attacks in the run-up to the May 11 election and specifically threatened several secular parties back in March. But the Taliban have also condemned democracy as a whole, meaning any political party taking part in the election could be targeted. In the deadliest of the three attacks Tuesday, a suicide bomber on a motorcycle detonated his explosives near a vehicle carrying a candidate from a hard-line Islamist party, killing 12 people and wounding 35, police officer Haleem Khan said.

Myanmar charges 6 Muslims with sectarian violence

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A court in Myanmar has charged six Muslims with murder for their alleged role in an outbreak of sectarian violence that shook the country in March, authorities said Tuesday, as a rights group raised concern over a judicial system that has so far failed to prosecute Buddhists who brutally hunted Muslims down in the streets and torched whole neighborhoods. The charges issued Monday are the latest legal action against minority Muslims in the central city of Meikthila, one of several recent flashpoints for anti-Muslim violence that the New York-based group Human Rights Watch said included an organized campaign of "ethnic cleansing" in the Buddhist nation. At least 43 people were killed and 12,000 displaced during several days of unrest in Meikhtila, which descended into anarchy as Buddhist mobs rampaged through the town and police stood idly by. Most of the victims were Muslim. Since then, authorities have detained 50 people, including members of both religious groups, but so far no Buddhists have been formally charged with serious crimes.

Bangladesh garment disaster death toll reaches 761

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—The death toll from a collapsed building housing five garment factories rose to 761 on Wednesday as authorities started disbursing salary and other benefits to the survivors in the country's deadliest industrial disaster.

According to a control room at the scene, rescue workers recovered more bodies out of the wreckage of the eight-story Rana Plaza that was packed with morning-shift workers when it collapsed on April 24 outside the nation's capital.

There is no clear indication on how many bodies still remain trapped in the debris as the exact number of people inside the collapsed building at the time of the collapse was unknown. More than 2,500 people were rescued alive.

The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, or BGMEA, had earlier said 3122 workers were employed in the factories, but it was not clear actually how many were there when it collapsed.

The disaster is the worst ever in the garment sector, far surpassing a fire that killed about 260 people in Pakistan and another in Bangladesh that killed 112 last year, as well as the 1911 garment disaster in New York's Triangle Shirtwaist factory that killed 146 workers.

After hundreds of garment factory workers protested for compensation on Tuesday morning, authorities started disbursing salary and other benefits.

Maj. Gen. Chowdhury Hasan Suhrawardy, a top military official in the area, said some 400 workers gathered on Tuesday night to get dues and benefits.

China denies renewed US cyberattack claims

BEIJING (AP)—China's military on Tuesday denied renewed U.S. accusations that it sponsored cyberattacks and said the two sides should cooperate against the global threat of computer crime.

The accusations in the latest Pentagon report on the Chinese military are "irresponsible and harmful to the mutual trust between the sides," Senior Col. Wang Xinjun, a People's Liberation Army researcher, was quoted by the official Xinhua News Agency as saying.

"The Chinese government and armed forces have never sanctioned hacking activities," said Wang, who is based at the Academy of Military Sciences in Beijing, one of the PLA's main think tanks. The military frequently uses such academics as alternative spokesmen.

The annual Pentagon report released Monday included for the first time the accusation that at least some attacks on U.S. government and other computer systems appeared to be "attributable directly" to the Chinese government and military. It said China is using its cyber capabilities to collect intelligence against U.S. diplomatic, economic and defense programs, and is developing the skills needed to conduct cyberwarfare.

The new wording in the report continues an escalating effort by U.S. officials to call out the Chinese on the cyberattacks and to press for a more open dialogue with Beijing on the problem.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying reiterated that China opposes cyberattacks as well as "all groundless accusations and hyping" that could harm prospects for cooperation.

"We are willing to hold even-tempered and constructive dialogue with the U.S." about cybercrime, Hua said.

World

Authorities: 42 dead in Nigeria extremist attacks

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP)—Coordinated attacks by Islamic extremists armed with heavy machine guns killed at least 42 people in northeast Nigeria, authorities said Tuesday, the latest in a string of increasingly bloody attacks threatening peace in Africa's most populous nation.

The attack struck multiple locations in the hard-hit town of Bama in Nigeria's Borno state, where shootings and bombings have continued unstopped since an insurgency began there in 2010. Fighters raided a federal prison during their assault as well, freeing 105 inmates in another mass prison break to hit the country, officials said.

What exactly happened in the attack remains unclear, though military spokesman Lt. Col. Sagir Musa said some 200 fighters in buses and pickup trucks mounted with machine guns attacked the barracks of the 202 Battalion of Nigeria's beleaguered army. Musa said two soldiers died in the attack, while some 10 insurgents died. However, the military routinely downplays their casualties in such assaults.

"They came in army uniform pretending to be soldiers but were able to detect them," Musa said.

The attackers struck the federal prison, killing 14 guards there, Musa said. They also attacked and razed a police station, a police barracks, a magistrate's court and local government offices, the lieutenant colonel said.

At least 22 police officers, three children and a woman were killed in those attacks, said Bama police commander Sagir Abubakar. He said officers killed three insurgents in the fighting.

Calls rang unanswered or couldn't connect Tuesday night to those living in Bama, a town 65 kilometers (40 miles) southeast of Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state.

Repeated attacks by Islamic extremists have seen mobile phone towers bombed and burned to the ground there, making communication even more difficult for security officials and civilians as well in the region. At least 17 people died in an attack in Bama in late April alone.

Much of the violence has been blamed on the extremist network known as Boko Haram, which means "Western education is sacrilege" in the Hausa language of Nigeria's north. That group has said it wants its imprisoned members freed and Nigeria to adopt strict Shariah law across the multiethnic nation of more than 160 million people.

While President Goodluck Jonathan has started a committee to look at the idea of offering an amnesty deal to extremist fighters, Boko Haram's leader, Abubakar Shekau, has dismissed the idea in messages.

President Assad says Syria able to face Israel

AP

An Israeli soldier peers through his weapon scope while on patrol on the Israeli side of the Lebanese-Israeli border, near the village of Kfar Kila, Lebanon, Tuesday, May 7, 2013.

BEIRUT (AP)—In his first response to Israel's weekend airstrikes, President Bashar Assad said Tuesday that Syria is capable of facing Israel, but stopped short of threatening retaliation for the strikes near the Syrian capital of Damascus.

Assad spoke after a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi, who paid an unexpected visit to Damascus.

Iran, one of Syria's closest allies, and Hezbollah, a Lebanese militia allied with both Assad and Tehran, have become increasingly involved in Syria's civil war, supporting the regime with fighters, military advisers and weapons. Syria and Hezbollah have been key to Iran's expansion of influence into the Arab world, and a collapse of the Assad regime would be a major blow to Tehran.

"We are fully confident that Syria will emerge victorious from the crisis," Salehi said about the more than 2-year-old battle between fighters loyal to Assad and rebels trying to oust him.

Israel's airstrikes on Friday and Sunday put Syria and Iran in a difficult position because if they retaliated, they would run the risk of drawing Israel's powerful army into the war. At the same time, inaction further weakens Assad's already shaky claims to being the leader of the Arab world's hard-line, anti-Israeli camp.

Israel has not formally acknowledged the strikes, but Israeli officials have said they targeted shipments of advanced Iranian weapons possibly bound for Hezbollah. The officials have said the aim was to deprive Hezbollah of weapons that could someday be used against Israel, not to raise tensions with Syria.

Israel has largely stayed on the sidelines since the uprising against Assad, which erupted in March 2011, turned into an armed insurgency and finally a civil war.

But on Tuesday, Assad accused Israel of supporting "terrorists"—the Syrian government's name for the anti-regime rebels—and boasted that Syria was "capable of facing Israel's ventures." He did not say what action he would take, if any.

Salehi adopted a slightly harsher tone, saying that "it is time to deter the Israeli occupiers from carrying out these aggressions against the peoples of the region." He also stopped short of threatening retaliation.

Later Tuesday, Internet companies reported Syria was experiencing an outage similar to a two-day blackout last fall. Syrian authorities have cut phone and Internet service in select areas in the past to disrupt rebel communications when regime forces are conducting major operations. The companies said Syria's networks appeared to go offline about 9 p.m. (1900 GMT).

Meanwhile, the United States and Russia, another Syria ally, said they'll convene a new international conference later this month to build on a transition plan they set out last year in Geneva.

Speaking in Moscow after his discussions with Russian President Vladimir Putin and other officials, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said the plan should be a roadmap for peace and not just a "piece of paper."

The goal is still to bring the Assad regime and representatives from the opposition together for talks on setting up an interim government, Kerry said. The Geneva plan, which never gained traction, allowed each side to veto candidates it found unacceptable.

In Syria, meanwhile, rebels detained four U.N. peacekeepers on Tuesday near the frontier with the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights, raising tensions just two days after the most recent Israeli airstrike.

The abduction was the second such incident in the area in two months. It exposed the vulnerability of the U.N. peacekeeping mission during the Syrian civil war and sent a worrisome signal to Syria's neighbors—including Israel—about the ensuing lawlessness along their shared frontiers.

Europeans had common ancestors 1,000 years ago

BERLIN (AP)—Europeans appear to be more closely related than previously thought.

Scientists who compared DNA samples from people in different parts of the continent found that most had common ancestors living just 1,000 years ago.

The results confirm decade-old mathematical models, but will nevertheless come as a surprise to Europeans accustomed to thinking of ancient nations composed of distinct ethnic groups like "Germans," "Irish" or "Serbs."

"What's remarkable about this is how closely everyone is related to each other," said Graham Coop of the University of California, Davis, who co-wrote the study published Tuesday in the journal PLoS Biology.

Coop and his fellow author Peter Ralph of the University of Southern California used a database containing more than 2,250 genetic samples to look for shared DNA segments that would point to distant shared relatives.

While the number of common genetic ancestors is greater the closer people are to each other, even individuals living 2,000 miles (3,220 kilometers) apart had identical sections of DNA that can be traced back roughly to the Middle Ages.

The findings indicate that there was a steady flow of genetic material between countries as far apart as Turkey and Britain, or Poland and Portugal, even after the great population movements of the first millennium A.D. such as the Saxon and Viking invasions of Britain, and the westward drive of the Huns and Slavic peoples.

The study did find subtle regional variations. For reasons still unclear, Italians and Spaniards appear to be less closely related than most Europeans to people elsewhere on the continent.

"The analysis is pretty convincing. It comes partly from the enormous number of ancestors each one of us have," said Mark A. Jobling, a professor of genetics at the University of Leicester, England, who wasn't involved in the study.

Since the number of ancestors each person has roughly doubles with each generation, "we don't have to go too far back to find someone who features in all of our family trees," he said.

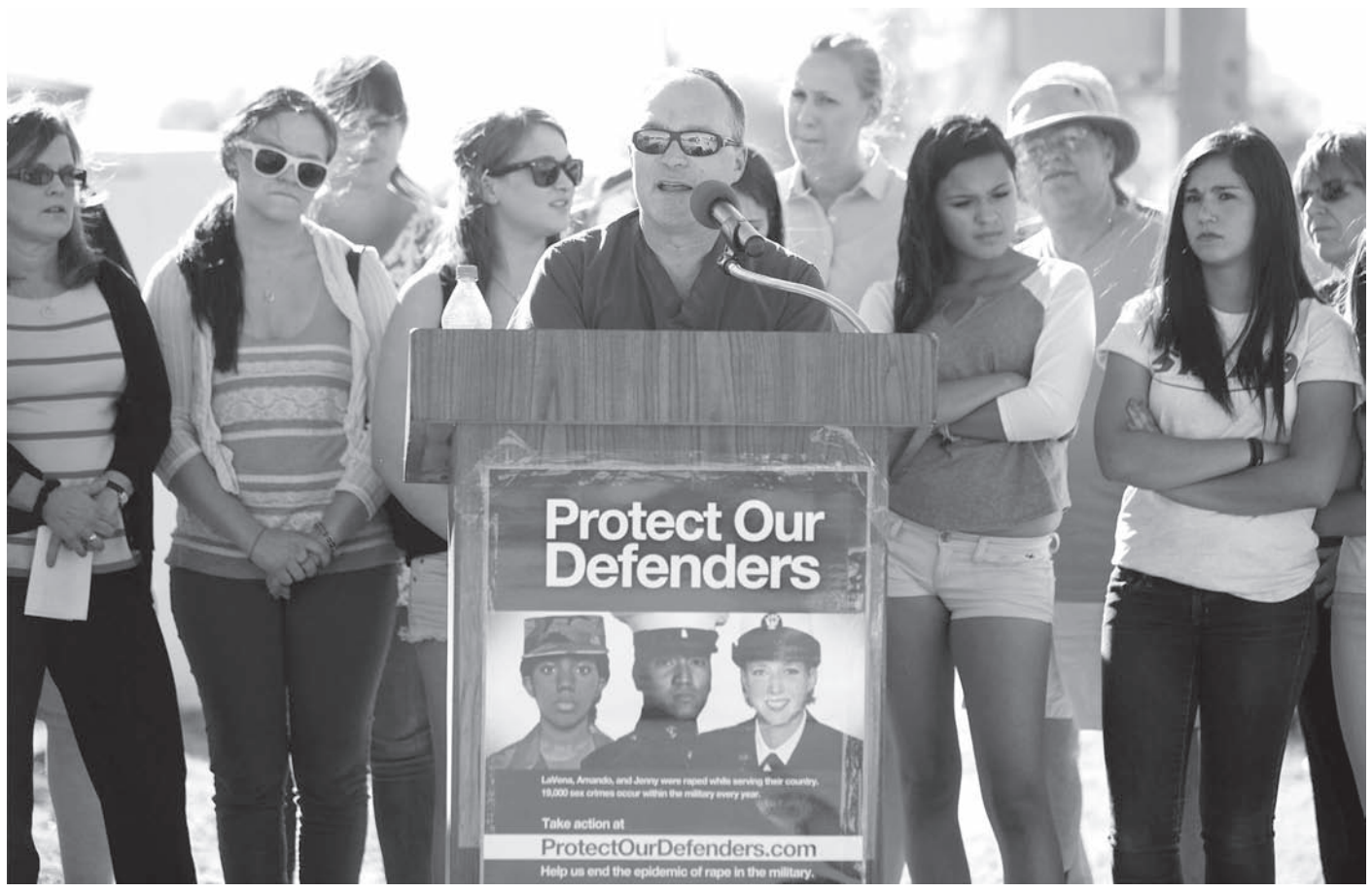
Jobling cited a scientific paper published in 2004 that went so far as to predict that every person on the planet shares ancestors who lived just 4,000 years ago.

Experts say the study's findings need to be compared with what we know about population movements in Europe and elsewhere from other fields, including archeology and linguistics.

"Although, as the authors note, the approach is inherently `noisy' (i.e. error-prone), it still does give results for European populations that are in reasonable agreement with historical expectations," said Mark Stoneking, a professor evolutionary anthropology at the University of Leipzig, Germany, who also wasn't involved in the study. "It would be interesting to see this applied in situations where we don't have such good historical information."

Focus

> **Sexual assault is a crime that is incompatible with military service and has no place in this department.**
>
> **—Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel**


Protect Our Defenders
LaVena, Amando, and Jenny were raped while serving their country.
19,000 sex crimes occur within the military every year.
Take action at
ProtectOurDefenders.com
Help us end the epidemic of rape in the military.

AP

Surrounded by friends, family and supporters, Steve Hanks, brother of Kimberly Hanks, speaks during a protest outside of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Ariz. on Thursday, April 25, 2013. The protesters rallied to denounce the Air Force's decision to transfer Lt. Col. James Wilkerson to Arizona after his sexual assault conviction was overturned by a commander, adding to the growing criticism of the military justice system. Kimberly Hanks, a civilian employee who works with service members, accused Wilkerson of sexually assaulting her after a March 2012 party at his house.

Military sexual assault reports up, changes ordered

By LOLITA C. BALDOR and DONNA CASSATA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sexual assaults in the military are a growing epidemic across the services and thousands of victims are still unwilling to come forward despite a slew of new oversight and assistance programs, according to a new Pentagon report.

Troubling new numbers estimate that up to 26,000 military members may have been sexually assaulted last year, according to survey results released against a backdrops of scandals including an ongoing investigation into more than 30 Air Force instructors for assaults on trainees at a Texas base

The report was released Tuesday and comes just days after the Air Force's head of sexual assault prevention was arrested on charges of groping a woman in a Northern Virginia parking lot. And it follows a heated debate over whether commanders should be stripped of the authority to overturn military jury verdicts, such as one officer did in a recent sexual assault conviction.

In a sharp rebuke Tuesday, President Barack Obama said he has no tolerance for the problem and that he had talked to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel about it. He said any military member found guilty of sexual assault should be held accountable, prosecuted and fired.

"I don't want just more speeches or awareness programs or training, or ultimately folks look the other way," the president said. "We're going to have to not just step up our game, we have to exponentially step up our game to go after this hard."

Hagel later gave a grim assessment, saying the military "may be nearing a stage where the frequency of this crime and the perception that there is tolerance of it could very well undermine our ability to effectively carry out the mission and to recruit and retain the good people we need."

The documents show that the number of sexual assaults actually reported by members of the military rose 6 percent to 3,374 in 2012. But a survey of personnel who were not required to reveal their identities showed the number of service members actually assaulted could be as many as 26,000, but they never reported the incidents, officials said Tuesday.

That number is an increase over the 19,000 estimated assaults in 2011.

The statistics highlight the dismal results that military leaders have achieved in their drive to change the culture within the ranks, even as the services redoubled efforts to launch new programs to assist the victims, encourage reporting and increase commanders' vigilance.

Hagel ordered a series of steps and reviews to increase officers' accountability for what happens under their commands, and to inspect workstations for objectionable materials, according to memos and documents obtained by the AP.

Hagel also told military leaders to develop a method to assess commanders and hold them accountable on their ability to create a climate "of dignity and respect." He has given commanders until July 1 to visually inspect workspaces to make sure they are free of degrading materials, and military leaders have until Nov. 1 to recommend ways to assess officers and hold them accountable for their command climates.

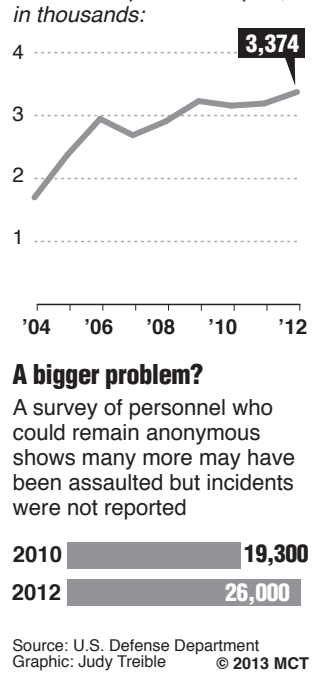
"Sexual assault is a crime that is incompatible with military service and has no place in this department," Hagel said in a new response plan the department will release Tuesday. "It is an affront to the American values we defend, and it is a stain on our honor. DoD needs to be a national leader in combating sexual assault and we will establish an environment of dignity and respect, where sexual assault is not tolerated, condoned, or ignored."

While the latest cases involve Air Force members, the problem extends across all the military services.

Across Capitol Hill, lawmakers demanded the Pentagon take more aggressive steps to address the growing problem and they announced renewed efforts to pass legislation to battle the problem.

"When our best and our brightest put on a uniform and join the United States Armed Forces, they do so with the understanding that they will sacrifice much in the name of defending our country and its people. However, it's unconscionable to think that entertaining unwanted sexual contact from within the ranks is now part of that equation," said Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash. "Not only are we subjecting our men and women to this disgusting epidemic, but we're also failing to provide the victims with any meaningful support system once they have fallen victim to these attacks."

This week's sexual battery arrest of Air Force Lt. Col. Jeffrey Krusinski, who headed the Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response unit, provided a rallying point for lawmakers, who held it up Tuesday as an example of the Pentagon's failure to make progress despite the increased effort.



Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., told Air Force officials at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on Tuesday that "while under our legal system everyone is innocent until proven guilty, this arrest speaks volumes about the status and effectiveness of (the Defense) department's efforts to address the plague of sexual assaults in the military."

Members of Congress are putting together legislation to essentially strip military officers of the authority to overturn convictions for serious offenses such as sexual assault. The measure stem from congressional outrage over an Air Force officer's decision to reverse a jury verdict in a sexual assault case.

Rep. Mike Turner, R-Ohio, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., and others are drawing up legislation that likely will be included in the annual defense policy bill that will essentially strip military officers of the authority to overturn convictions for serious offenses such as sexual assault.

Separately, Murray and Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., introduced legislation on Tuesday to provide victims with a special military lawyer who would assist them throughout the process, prohibit sexual contact between instructors and trainees during and within 30 days of completion of basic training or its equivalent and ensure that sexual assault response coordinators are available to help members of the National Guard and reserve.

Turner said the increase in assaults and the failure of so many victims to come forward shows that "much more needs to be done both legislatively and structurally, to root out this problem."

According to Pentagon documents, the key conclusion of the report is that "sexual assault is a persistent problem in the military and remains vastly underreported."

The report says that of the 1.4 million active duty personnel, 6.1 percent of active duty women—or 12,100—say they experienced unwanted sexual contact in 2012, a sharp increase over the 8,600 who said that in 2010. For men, the number increased from 10,700 to 13,900. A majority of the offenders were military members or Defense Department civilians or contractors, the report said.

Within the specific services, the Army showed a 16 percent decrease in the number of reported sexual assault cases, from 1,695 in 2011 to 1,423 in 2012.

The Navy said it saw a 32 percent increase, jumping from 550 in 2011 to 726 in 2012. The report said the Marines had more than a 30 percent increase in reported sexual assaults, from 333 in 2011 to 435 in 2012. And the Air Force had a 33 percent increase in reports, from 594 in 2011 to 790 in 2012.

Military and defense officials said to a degree they view an increase in reporting as a somewhat positive move since it indicates that victims are becoming more willing to come forward and have faith in the military justice system.

Gen. Mark Welsh, the Air Force's chief of staff, told the Senate Armed Services Committee that he and Air Force Secretary Michael Donley were "appalled" by the charges against Krusinski.

"As we have both said over and over and over again, sexual assault prevention and response efforts are critically important to us," Welsh said. "It is unacceptable that this occurs anywhere, at any time, in our Air Force."

Welsh said that while the Krusinski case is being adjudicated by the Arlington County, Va., prosecutor, the Air Force has requested jurisdiction. He said Krusinski will be arraigned Thursday on one count of sexual battery and that an Arlington County prosecutor will decide the jurisdiction question.

Environment

UOG team searches for rare butterflies and snails

University of Guam researchers, faculty, and students have found a unique way to spend their spring break. They hike in limestone forests around the island looking for rare butterflies and snails.

In 2012, UOG was awarded a $330,000 cooperative agreement by Department of Defense to survey the portions of the island for three tree snail species (*Samoana fragilis* (fragile tree snail), *Partula radiolata* (Guam tree snail), *Partula gibba* (humped tree snail)) and two species of butterflies (*Hypolimnas octocula marianensis* (Mariana eight-spot butterfly or forest flicker), *Vagrans egistina* (Marianas rusty).

"This cooperative agreement has allowed UoG to bring in experts from University of Hawaii Manoa as well as provide valuable field and laboratory experience to UoG students underscoring the importance of research and its connection with undergraduate and graduate teaching," said Dr. Dan Lindstrom, principal investigator for the project. "We have assembled a great team and the camaraderie is unprecedented. We are having a wonderful time doing good science."

Lindstrom is the genetics team leader for the project working closely with Dr. John Benedict, project coordinator and botany/GIS specialist. UoG, Western Pacific Tropical Research Center scientist Dr. Aubrey Moore and biology professor Dr. Curt Fiedler are the butterfly team co-leaders. Drs. Alex Kerr and Frank Camacho are the snail team co-leaders. Kerr is a professor with UoG's Marine Lab and Camacho is a biology/ecology professor.

Visiting snail specialist Dr. Brenden Holland is the director of the Endangered Tree Snail Conservation Lab at UHM. Dr. Daniel Rubinoff, also from UHM, is an entomologist with a strong background in conservation and tropical butterflies. This project is fortunate to have the expertise of these visiting scientists as well as that of their post-doctoral research assistants Drs. David Sischo and William Haines.

"Scientifically, we want to follow up on decades of research on Guam's land snails for information on how

DR. DAN RUBINOFF

University of Guam researchers, students and visiting scientists survey a limestone forest for the Mariana Eight Spot butterfly. In the foreground is the host plant for the butterfly, *Procris pedunculata*.

DR. G. CURT FIEDLER

Listed as critically endangered by IUCN, a Guam tree snail, *Partula radiolata* slides across a leaf.

populations are doing, where they are located, as well as looking at other animals that prey on them or their host plants," said Lindstrom.

Funds from this cooperative agreement have allowed Lindstrom to take genetic samples with the purpose of comparing genetic populations on the island and the region with practical applications for genetic management. Undergraduate research assistant Sherri Mantanona says, "Working on this project adds to my experience with local endemic species. Previously, I worked on the ecology of bird loss project, but having a chance to do field work on a new project for a different species, I look at the environment in a new way. Having lab work coupled with field work strengthens my skills for graduate school." Other biology majors working on the project are Steve Pillman, Patrick Mantanona, Michael Natuel, and Megan Volsteadt. Recent UOG graduates Julie Duay from the Master of Science Environmental Science program and Rob Ady with a bachelor degree in biology, add their skills to the scientific posse.

Collaborative efforts between Department of Defense and University of Guam researchers, faculty, students and visiting scientists benefit the island and the region in numerous ways including deepening our understanding of island flora and fauna and the conservation of natural resources. ***(UOG)***

EPA: Decline in carbon pollution from power plants

WASHINGTON (AP)—Heat-trapping gases from U.S. power plants fell 4.6 percent in 2011 from the previous year as plants burned less coal, the biggest source of greenhouse gas pollution, according to a new government report.

The report, released Tuesday by the Environmental Protection Agency, said power plants remain the largest stationary source of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that trigger global warming. Power plants were responsible for 2.2 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2011.

The reduction from 2010 reflects a relative decline in the use of coal, the dominant U.S. energy source, and an increase in natural gas and renewable sources that produce lower amounts of greenhouse gases, the report said.

Power plants produced roughly two-thirds of greenhouse gas emissions from stationary sources, the EPA said, with petroleum and natural gas systems a distant second and refineries the third-largest carbon pollution source.

The annual report was the second produced by the EPA as it tracks global warming pollution by industry type and individual facility. The data include more than 8,000 facilities in nine industrial sectors that produced more than 3.3 billion tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.

The report shows that greenhouse gas pollution is concentrated at large power plants, petroleum refineries and chemical plants. Just 4 percent of the sites analyzed were responsible for 57 percent of the reported pollution in 2011.

For the second year in a row, the EPA's data shows that the largest greenhouse gas polluter in the nation in 2011 was the Scherer power plant in Juliette, Ga. The coal-fired plant, owned by Atlanta-based Southern Co., reported releasing more than 22 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, the chief greenhouse gas, in 2011.

Another Southern-owned plant was the second-largest polluter nationally: the James H. Miller, Jr. power plant in Quinton, Ala., which also produced 22 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.

Martin Lake power plant in Tatum, Texas, operated by Dallas-based Luminant, was third, with 18.4 million metric tons of carbon pollution, the report shows.

Peter Zalzal, an attorney for the Environmental Defense Fund, called the EPA report "a call to action for America to work together" to find innovative solutions to address carbon pollution from power plants and methane from oil and gas production.

"We know where the largest sources are. We know where we have to apply smart solutions," he said.

DO YOUR PART

Battle spring pests

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The flowers are blooming, the weather is warming, and pests are starting to appear inside and outside of our homes. Instead of reaching for a toxic cocktail of bug killer, Do Your Part to battle these pests with safer solutions.

Make mosquitoes disappear naturally

Mosquitoes can make life miserable in just a matter of minutes so prevention is key. Scan your yard for pools of standing water—especially after a good rain. Places like clogged gutters or plant saucers are mosquito magnets so get rid of that standing water quickly. If you have a water feature outside or a rain barrel, you can safely keep mosquitoes from breeding by using mosquito dunks. They are easy to find at any hardware store or garden center and they are safe for humans, pets, and wildlife. As for mosquito repellents, there are a number of natural alternatives. Lemon eucalyptus has been proven to be equally as effective as the controversial chemical DEET, found in so many insect repellents. Citronella oil and cedar oil are among other natural alternatives that will also keep mosquitoes away.

Fight fleas without dangerous chemicals

It's tough to watch your dog or cat battle with fleas. The last thing you want to do is to put a toxic collar on them. Those collars usually contain pesticides that can rub off on your pet and people. Prevent fleas by giving your pets regular baths with natural flea fighting shampoos that contain essential oils such as lemongrass, cedarwood, peppermint, rosemary, or thyme. If there's already evidence of fleas, all natural borax will help kill them on carpets and rugs. Sprinkle some on and let it sit for an hour before vacuuming. Of course, keep your pets and children away from the area during treatment. If you find that you need a stronger solution, ask your vet about oral medications to treat fleas. And, GreenPaws.org also provides a thorough guide where you can type in a flea or tick product to find out just how safe—or unsafe—it really is.

Battle ants and roaches safely

The best way to keep ants and roaches at bay is to make sure they don't get inside your home in the first place. A natural, safe, and inexpensive solution that I use is something called Diatomaceous Earth (DE). It looks like a powder but is actually made of fossilized microscopic shells. You can buy food grade DE from many home and garden centers. When insects come into contact with it, their outer shell is pierced and they die of dehydration. That's why it's a good idea to apply DE around the foundation of your home and in the nooks and crevices where ants and roaches can sneak inside.

This spring, don't let pests get you down. Do Your Part with a few simple and affordable options to keep them away from your home for good.

Terri Bennett is a national speaker, eco-expert, and author of Do Your Part: A practical guide for everyday green living available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions or speaker requests to terri@doyourpart.com

Life & Style

Love helps Rod Stewart overcome writer's block

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Rod Stewart has never shied from the spotlight, but on this day, the famously cheeky rocker wants a softer glow.

He's waiting to be interviewed on camera about his first album of original music in almost 20 years, and the lighting inside the fitness center of his Beverly Hills compound isn't quite right. He calls for his No. 1 expert to check it out.

"My wife's on her way over," he says.

When Penny Lancaster arrives, legs all the way up to her tousled blonde ponytail, she looks through the camera and insists on softer lights. As they dim, the 42-year-old model/photographer dusts Stewart's face with powder, then leans in toward his trademark spiky 'do.

"Not the hair, not the hair, not the hair," he protests uselessly.

She tugs at two strands, the result imperceptible.

"You only thought you had it perfect," says Lancaster with a cover-girl smile.

There's a lot of love in Stewart's life now, and it's on full display on "Time," his new album out Tuesday. There are other signs, too, like how his youngest sons' weights are scrawled on a scale inside this apartment-sized gym, just above "mummy" and "daddy"; and how he pauses during an interview to shout, "See ya, Shawny," to his eldest son, Sean, as he grabs some water after playing basketball on the court outside.

After releasing eight cover albums—his five "Great American Songbook" volumes, a Christmas album, "Soulbook" and his classic rock collection—Stewart rediscovered his songwriting voice while reviewing his life for his 2012 autobiography, "Rod." That self-reflection, combined with the personal contentment he clearly feels, resulted in a deeply personal collection of songs: stories about his father, his early life, his eight children, his two divorces.

"It was probably the longest writer's block in history, you know, 20-odd years. But it wasn't self-imposed. It was maybe a lack of confidence," Stewart said. "I'd sort of given up, let's put it that way. But because of the autobiography, it inspired me. And I had a lot to write about... Probably I was in the right state of my life to start writing these very personal songs."

Not only did he find a wellspring of material, he found a delight in songwriting that had always been elusive.

"It always used to be like work for me. It was never a pleasure. It was never a joy. It was like being at school," he said. "But now, I finally enjoy it. My wife will tell you, I was getting up in the middle of the night and writing down lyrics, just inspired. I can't wait to start writing again. It's tremendous."

Even his longtime manager, Arnold Stiefel, was shocked at how prolific Stewart was without prodding.

"You'd have to lock him in a room to get him to write songs," he said. "Now, he's approaching it with a real joy. I was blown away."

The autobiography and the album are companions, Stewart said, though in some ways the album is more revealing. Where the book chronicles his evolution into a world-famous rock star (and the attendant pleasures of that lifestyle) along with the happiness of his present circumstances, only the latter comes through on "Time."

"I've got a feeling that this album is a watershed album for me because it is so personal," he said.

That means embracing an image far from the "Do Ya Think I'm Sexy?" swagger of his heyday. Here, the 68-year-old is a loving dad, grateful son and faithful partner.

"It's OK," he said. "I believe that's one way you can write songs—be as personal as you can. I've always said my life's been an open book, I've got nothing to hide... I think it's even somewhat brave to be that personal and put it down on record for the rest of your life that people are going to hear."

That's not to say that he isn't still cheeky. Asked what he likes to do when he's not working, Stewart included "have sex with my wife as much as I can" as part of his response.

He also works out. The interview was held in one of two gyms on his Celtic House property, reached by a sloping driveway lined with bushes of blooming white roses and a small yellow sign that reads: "Slow: Children at play." Stewart keeps up his energy for his regular 90-minute sets at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas and his upcoming tour with regular workouts, including weekly soccer matches with a team whose members are all over 50. He even has a soccer field on his property.

His musical influences have remained the same over his 45-year career—"Sam Cooke, Otis Redding, Muddy Waters"—and he still listens to the same music today. He also has an affinity for Adele and Tom Waits, whose "Picture in a Frame" is the only song on "Time" that Stewart didn't write. He's covered Waits twice before: "Downtown Train" and "Tom Traubert's Blues."

In this Thursday, May 2, 2013 photo, singer Rod Stewart poses for a portrait in Los Angeles. His new album, "Time," is out on Tuesday, May 7.

AP

Singer arrested in Calif. murder-for-hire sting

OCEANSIDE, California (AP)—The lead singer of Grammy-nominated heavy metal band As I Lay Dying was arrested Tuesday in Southern California as authorities said he tried to hire an undercover detective to kill his estranged wife.

Tim Lambesis, 32, was arrested at a retail business in Oceanside, the San Diego County Sheriff's Department said in a statement.

The statement said detectives received information Thursday that Lambesis had solicited someone to kill his wife, who lives in nearby Encinitas. A task force from several law enforcement agencies quickly launched an investigation that led to the arrest.

The department would give no further details on the investigation.

As I Lay Dying formed in San Diego in 2000 and has released six albums including 2007's "An Ocean Between Us," which reached No. 8 on Billboard's charts. A track from the album was nominated for a Grammy for top metal performance.

It was not clear whether Lambesis had hired an attorney, and a phone message seeking comment left at a number listed in his name was not immediately returned.

According to its website, the band is scheduled to tour the country with several other metal acts starting later this month.

AP

In this file photo taken Thursday, April 8, 2010, Tim Lambesis of As I Lay Dying performs at the second annual Revolver Golden Gods Awards in Los Angeles.

CHART TOPPERS

The top 10 songs and albums on the iTunes Store for the week ending May 6, 2013:

TOP SONGS
1. "Can't Hold Us (feat. Ray Dalton)," Ryan Lewis, Macklemore
2. "Just Give Me a Reason (feat. Nate Ruess)," P!nk
3. "Mirrors," Justin Timberlake
4. "Stay (feat. Mikky Ekko)," Rihanna
5. "I Love It (feat. Charli XCX)," Icona Pop
6. "Radioactive," Imagine Dragons
7. "Thrift Shop (feat. Wanz)," Ryan Lewis, Macklemore
8. "Come & Get It," Selena Gomez
9. "Wagon Wheel," Darius Rucker
10. "When I Was Your Man," Bruno Mars

TOP ALBUMS
1. "Life On a Rock," Kenny Chesney
2. "The 20/20 Experience," Justin Timberlake
3. "The Heist," Ryan Lewis, Macklemore
4. "To Be Loved," Michael Buble
5. "Trouble," Randy Rogers Band
6. "Night Visions," Imagine Dragons
7. "Save Rock and Roll," Fall Out Boy
8. "Based On a True Story... " Blake Shelton
9. "Extended Play - EP," Fleetwood Mac
10. "The Truth About Love," P!nk

The top iPhone and iPad apps on App Store for the week ending May 6, 2013:

TOP PAID IPHONE APPS
1. Heads Up! (Warner Bros.)
2. WhatsApp Messenger (WhatsApp Inc.)
3. Survivalcraft (Igor Kalicinski)
4. Minecraft - Pocket Edition (Mojang)
5. Cut the Rope: Time Travel (ZeptoLab UK Limited)
6. Grand Theft Auto: Vice City (Rockstar Games)
7. Star Command (Star Command, LLC)
8. AfterLight (Simon Filip)
9. Temple Run: Oz (Disney)
10. Kick the Buddy: No Mercy (Crustalli)

TOP FREE IPHONE APPS
1. FallDown! 2 (Hannes Jensen)
2. Candy Crush Saga (King.com Limited)
3. Vine (Vine Labs, Inc.)
4. Draw Something 2 Free (Zynga Inc.)
5. Path (Path, Inc.)
6. Robot Unicorn Attack 2 (adult swim)
7. Iron Man 3 - The Official Game (Gameloft)
8. Dots: A Game About Connecting (Betaworks One)
9. Snapchat (Snapchat, Inc.)
10. YouTube (Google, Inc.)

TOP PAID IPAD APPS
1. Survivalcraft (Igor Kalicinski)
2. Minecraft - Pocket Edition (Mojang)
3. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Rooftop Run (Nickelodeon)
4. LEGO Batman: DC Super Heroes (Warner Bros.)
5. Star Command (Star Command, LLC)
6. Heads Up! (Warner Bros.)
7. Doc McStuffins: Time For Your Check Up! (Disney)
8. Grand Theft Auto: Vice City (Rockstar Games)
9. Pages (Apple)
10. Plants vs. Zombies HD (PopCap)

TOP FREE IPAD APPS
1. Iron Man 3 - The Official Game (Gameloft)
2. Angry Birds Friends, Rovio Entertainment Ltd
3. Candy Crush Saga (King.com Limited)
4. Robot Unicorn Attack 2 (adult swim)
5. Draw Something 2 Free (Zynga Inc.)
6. Ginger's Birthday (Out Fit 7 Ltd.)
7. YouTube (Google, Inc.)
8. Clear Vision 2 HD (DPFLASHES STUDIOS)
9. Calculator for iPad Free (International Travel Weather Calculator)
10. Google Search (Google, Inc.)

Meet the last women standing on 'American Idol'

It hasn't been an easy road for the three final "American Idol" contestants.

Candice Glover was twice rejected by the show before making it to the final three. Kree Harrison chased her dream for so long in Nashville, she thought it might be time to give up. And Angie Miller sang despite having suffered ruptured ear drums and impaired hearing.

Now the three women will duke it out Wednesday night on Fox as the journey winds down for two of them—and one is crowned the winner on next week's finale. Here are their stories.

AP

This May 2, 2013 photo released by Fox shows, from left, Candice Glover, Angie Miller and Kree Harrison, finalists in the singing competition series "American Idol," in Los Angeles.

CANDICE GLOVER

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—The third time has been the charm for Candice Glover.

She made it past the first round of "American Idol" auditions in Season 9 and Season 11, but didn't make it to the semi-finals. This season, her slow, burning, powerful version of The Cure's "Lovesong" was called the greatest performance ever on the show by judge Randy Jackson, who has been there since the beginning.

"I'm definitely proof dreams come true," Glover said when she returned last weekend to her hometown of St. Helena Island, S.C. "No matter how many times you get a 'no,' you keep trying to get a 'yes.'"

Glover started singing and performing at Oaks True Holiness Church at age 4. She got her first standing ovation there when she was 8, and was hooked on entertaining.

Glover first auditioned for "American Idol" in 2009, making it to the final 70 contestants. She made the top 60 in 2011 before bowing out. But she wasn't on TV either time.

She headed back to St. Helena Island after each failure, making her living renting scooters and golf carts in resort areas nearby and singing at weddings and funerals.

After last season's near-miss, Glover said she took time to assess her strengths and weaknesses as a performer. She never had a vocal coach, and she credits what she did with herself—not the turnover in three of the show's four judges—with her success.

"It's the change in me, not the judges. It's the fact I worked really hard and prepared myself, compared to before," Glover said.

She also has a whole state cheering for her. Despite the success of Southern artists on the show, South Carolina has never had an Idol contest make it this far, even with a rich musical tradition that includes jazz trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie, the Godfather of Soul James Brown, 1960s dance icon Chubby Checker and rock and now country star Darius Rucker.

"You could not have made South Carolina more proud than we are right now," said Gov. Nikki Haley as she declared Saturday "Candice Glover Day" in South Carolina.

KREE HARRISON

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—"American Idol" finalist Kree Harrison has a piece of advice for aspiring contestants: "You have to know who you are because if you don't, it's even harder."

The native Texan has spent the last 13 years in Music City chasing the dream, and part of that long journey has been maintaining her personal vision as an artist. That vision has landed the 22-year-old as one of three finalists on "Idol." After a couple of failed deals that would have required her to change her sound, she had started to think it might be time to give up, though.

"Nashville has taught me so much—the people, the writing community, the whole town," Harrison said in a phone interview. "They'll make you stronger. Probably since I was not trying anymore, I thought what do I have to lose (trying out for 'Idol')? I can maybe create this following that I need. That was my initial goal. 'Idol' gives artists such a great platform to start your career. Hopefully however big your following will be, you'll make great music and someone will get it. It's been crazy. And worth it."

One of those friends is Kacey Musgraves, who had Harrison sing backup on her recent hit album, "Same Trailer Different Park." Musgraves thinks she knows the secret to Harrison's success so far.

"I've literally never heard the girl hit one bad note," Musgraves said. "Her instincts are spot on always. The thing I love about her is she never tries to overdo it, she never tries to over-sing. And it's always really believeable and real, and I think people are craving that."

And if it doesn't work out, she'll always have that tweet from Merle Haggard, who complimented her on her version of "Help Me Make It Through the Night."

"Oh my God, I don't even think it's real still," Harrison said. "I was like, 'Who's punking me?' First of all, Merle Haggard has a Twitter? That's amazing. I kept refreshing the page thinking, 'There must be something wrong.'

ANGIE MILLER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Angie Miller's poise and confidence seem as effortless as her high notes.

The 19-year-old "American Idol" finalist from Beverly, Mass., took guest mentor Harry Connick Jr.'s teasing in stride when he claimed that his family—Connick aside—loves her voice.

Earlier this season, when given the choice of picking a song from a playlist or an original for the show's crucial Hollywood auditions, Miller went with her own tune, "You Set Me Free," although only family and friends had heard it.

"I'm really confident in myself as an artist and the music I do," Miller said during a break in rehearsals for this week's showdown. She did seek a less partial opinion, from "American Idol" vocal coach Matt Rohde, and no punches pulled.

"I looked at Matt and said, 'You need to tell me if this song isn't good enough. Tell me if it's a bad idea,'" she said. He applauded it, and so did the judges who gave a standing ovation to the piano-playing brunette with the wide smile.

One her most rousing "Idol" performances came after the Boston Marathon bombings, when she dedicated the song "I'll Stand by You" to "my home, Boston."

Miller, who grew up in a musical household ("My family was like a worship team," each on a different instrument, said the churchgoer and former worship leader), started writing songs as a youngster, with "Little Little Sparkle Dress" her inaugural effort.

It was in childhood that she suffered ruptured ear drums and impaired hearing, Miller said. The problem worsened when one ear drum deteriorated further, and the doctor who diagnosed it last year recommended that she undergo skin graft surgery post-"Idol."

Miller, who's gotten used to adjusting on stage for her condition, is facing that prospect with the same public composure she displays toward her "Idol" experience. Even the inevitable social media praise and scorn ("Nothing is private anymore") won't rattle her, she said.

"I'm still growing up, but I definitely feel like I'm not super immature. I feel like I can handle this competition and the haters and everything else going on. I have an incredible support system, my family," Miller said.

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Underwood to sing 'Sunday Night Football' theme

NEW YORK (AP)—Carrie Underwood will take over the theme song for "Sunday Night Football," with NBC sticking to the formula of a female country music star for its intro.

Underwood steps in for Faith Hill, who announced last month that she would not be back for a seventh season. Underwood will sing a new version of "Waiting All Day for Sunday Night," the network said Tuesday.

Producer Fred Gaudelli said that after Hill informed him in February, Underwood was the only performer he pursued. She was under consideration for the role when NBC first broadcast the Sunday night National Football League games in 2006.

Pink sang the opening tune, set to Joan Jett's "I Hate Myself for Loving You," for that first season before Hill came on.

"For me, it just always seemed like something that would be fun to do," Underwood said during a conference call. "To watch Faith do it week after week, to see that hype for the game, it's something that's so cool."

Underwood plans to adapt the intro to her style, with the lyrics remaining the same. NFL stars will again appear in the video sequence.

A former "American Idol" champion and six-time Grammy winner, Underwood is married to hockey star Mike Fisher of the Nashville Predators. The 30-year-old Oklahoma native sang the national anthem at the 2010 Super Bowl.

Underwood said her husband, who is friends with several National Football League players, was thrilled about her foray into his profession.

AP

This April 7, 2013 file photo shows Carrie Underwood performing at the 48th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

"He's a sports dude," she said. "Yeah, he plays hockey, but he definitely loves football, as do I."

The first Sunday night game is Sept. 8, when the New York Giants visit the Dallas Cowboys. "Sunday Night Football," which averaged 21.8 million viewers last season, is TV's top-rated prime-time show.

Gaudelli said he contacted Hill's reps Tuesday to let them know of the hire. Underwood said she expected to get pointers from Hill the next time they cross paths.

Underwood is signed up to star in NBC's live broadcast of "The Sound of Music" this year. While her familiarity with the network helped, she said, the two deals weren't connected.

Reports: Bieber fined for speeding in Dubai

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Justin Bieber is used to fans snapping his photo. Dubai police say he also triggered some speed cameras while driving a white Lamborghini during his stop in the Gulf city.

Dubai newspapers on Tuesday quoted a police official saying the megastar racked up a "number" of speeding fines before being pulled over.

Bieber

The official was not named and no other details were given. The media office for the Dubai police referred to the newspaper reports when asked for comment.

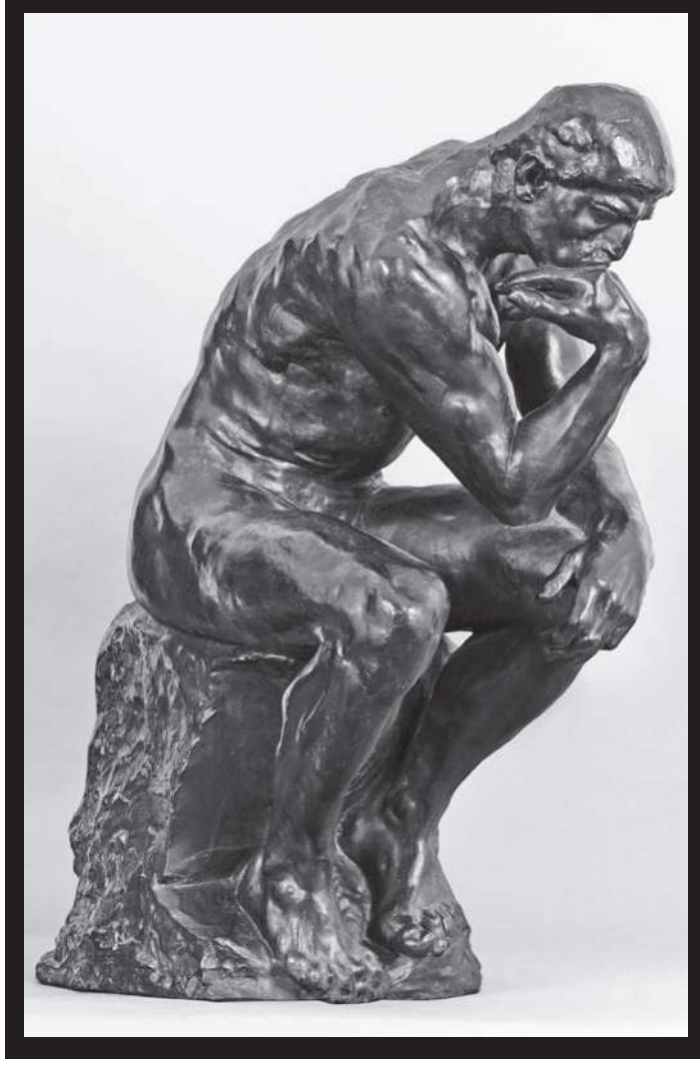
Bieber's representatives didn't immediately return calls seeking comment.

It wasn't the only mishap for Bieber in Dubai.

He was jostled onstage Sunday as security guards tackled a fan who climbed out of the crowd during his second and final Dubai performance.

In a bit of showmanship of its own, the police in Dubai recently added a Lamborghini and other fast, flashy cars to its fleet.

2 of 3 Rodin sculptures fetch $16M in NYC auction



NEW YORK (AP)—Two early casts from Auguste Rodin's masterpiece "The Gates of Hell" have sold for a total of more than $16 million at a New York City auction.

"The Thinker" sold Tuesday for $15.3 million, a new record for the figure. Sotheby's hasn't said who bought it.

A later cast of the statue was auctioned for just under $12 million in 2010.

The full-scale sculpture was commissioned by publishing magnate Ralph Pulitzer in 1906 and made under Rodin's supervision.

"Ugolino and His Children," from 1883, sold for $965,000. "The Kiss," from 1909, did not sell.

The pieces were consigned by a private collector.

"The Gates" is based on Dante's "Inferno." It was never fully realized. Philadelphia's Rodin Museum owns the first bronze cast of "The Gates."

This file photo provided by Sotheby's, Friday, April 12, 2013, shows the Auguste Rodin sculpture, "The Thinker."

AP

Expert: Jackson doctor unqualified in many areas

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An expert cardiologist says Michael Jackson's doctor did not have the proper training to treat the singer for insomnia or any drug addictions. Dr. Daniel Wohlgelernter told a jury hearing a negligent hiring case filed by Jackson's mother against AEG Live LLC that he reached his conclusion after reviewing the credentials of Jackson's doctor.

Wohlgelernter also testified that former cardiologist Conrad Murray was unqualified to administer propofol, the powerful anesthetic that killed Jackson.

The Santa Monica-based cardiologist is testifying for Katherine Jackson, who claims AEG failed to properly investigate and supervise Murray's care of her son.

AEG denies all wrongdoing and says it was Michael Jackson who wanted Murray to work as his doctor while he prepared for a series of comeback shows in 2009.

Rapper Ja Rule leaves US federal prison

ALBANY, New York (AP)—Federal authorities say platinum-selling rapper Ja Rule has left federal prison.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons says he left a correctional facility in New York's Adirondacks on Tuesday, though time remains on his sentence.

The bureau says the release date for the 36-year-old rapper, whose real name is Jeffrey Atkins, technically remains July 28, with possible community-based supervision for the balance.

TMZ reports his wife picked him up and he'll remain in home confinement until then.

Ja Rule had served most of a two-year sentence for illegal gun possession in a New York state prison before his release in February and subsequent transfer into federal custody in the tax evasion case.

He admitted failing to pay taxes on more than $3 million earned between 2004 and 2006.

AP

This March 22, 2011 file photo shows rapper Ja Rule inside a vehicle outside Martin Luther King, Jr. Courthouse after pleading guilty to federal tax evasion charges in Newark, N.J.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

PepsiCo agrees to meet with Till family, Sharpton

NEW YORK (AP)—PepsiCo Inc. officials will meet Wednesday with members of Emmett Till's family and civil rights leader Rev. Al Sharpton. Sharpton continued to press for the meeting last week after the company's partnerships with Lil Wayne and Tyler, the Creator, of Odd Future to promote Mountain Dew sparked controversies. PepsiCo and Lil Wayne have since parted over creative differences after the rapper's offensive lyrics related to the civil rights icon Till. The company also pulled a commercial directed by Tyler that angered anti-violence and civil rights advocates. The meeting to be held at PepsiCo headquarters in Purchase comes as an outcry over offensive lyrics increases. Reebok recently ended its partnership with Rick Ross for similar reasons.

Flavor Flav assault trial set for Sept. in Vegas

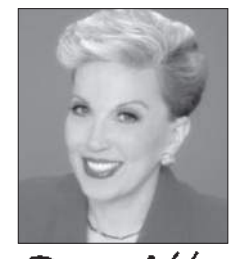
LAS VEGAS (AP)—A Las Vegas judge has scheduled a September trial for entertainer Flavor Flav on felony charges he chased and threatened his longtime girlfriend's 17-year-old son with a butcher knife. A court spokeswoman says the case is set for Sept. 30 in Clark County District Court for the 54-year-old former rap and reality TV star. His legal name is William Jonathan Drayton Jr. He could get up to 12 years in prison if he's convicted. Drayton pleaded not guilty Tuesday in Nevada state court to felony assault with a weapon and child endangerment charges stemming from a family argument last October. His attorney didn't immediately respond to messages. A local judge who heard the teen testify last month decided there was enough evidence for Drayton to stand trial in state court.

Madonna's French painting sells in NYC for $7.2M

NEW YORK (AP)—A French painting owned by Madonna has sold at a New York City auction for more than $7 million. Sotheby's auction house hasn't said who bought Fernand Leger's "Three Women at the Red Table" for $7.2 million on Tuesday. The abstract work had a pre-sale estimate of $5 million to $7 million. Proceeds of the sale will benefit the Ray of Light Foundation, which supports girls' education in Afghanistan, Pakistan and other countries. Madonna says she wanted to "trade something valuable for something invaluable" in countries where female education is rare or nonexistent. She bought the work at Sotheby's in 1990 for $3.4 million. Leger created the work in 1921 as part of a series depicting women with still-life compositions.

Cellphone snoop suspects friend of having an affair

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I have a friend who I believe is having an affair. I have no concrete evidence, only a slew of circumstantial evidence such as odd work hours, blocks of mystery time set aside at night in his cellphone's day planner, and evading questions about texts from females.

I have no idea how to approach him, or if I even should. I wouldn't know how to begin the conversation with him because I have no solid proof. I always considered him to be a decent individual, but in the back of my mind now I'm thinking, "He's cheating on his wife!" What makes me uneasy is that it's all based on my hunch. I'm usually pretty good with my hunches, though.

Any words of wisdom would be welcome.

NICK IN NEW ENGLAND

DEAR NICK: What are you doing going through your friend's cellphone day planner and reading his texts? He doesn't have to account to you for his time. For all you know the man may be in a 12-step program or a therapy group. If he wanted you to know what he's doing, he would tell you. Right now the "friendliest" thing you can do is mind your own business.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have worked at my job almost 10 years. Most of the owners are nice, and the staff is great. I like my job most days.

I had a really bad week recently. I felt like I couldn't do anything right. The week ended with a really angry text from my boss. He was right. I was in the wrong, and I apologized. He sent me another text, still angry, and my whole weekend was ruined by it. I kept thinking how mad he was, and how in a few days, I'd start my week in the doghouse.

I can't figure out how not to take work home with me. Also, I can't help but think he was wrong using a text as a means of discussing the issue. I don't want to make him angrier. How do I confront this issue?

STILL UPSET IN OREGON

DEAR STILL UPSET: It would have been much better management if your boss had talked with you face to face about what was wrong with your performance. By now, your boss should have cooled off, and I suggest that you have a private chat with him and say that if he has a bone to pick with you, you would prefer to hear it from his lips rather than have it communicated in a text, which was hurtful.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: After my best friend of more than 20 years, I'll call him Tim, told me his wife had cheated on him, I confessed that I am in love with him. His response floored me. Tim announced that he has been in love with me all this time and can imagine growing old with only me.

A friend told me I'm committing adultery with Tim because he is now in the process of leaving his cheating wife for me. Am I? We haven't been intimate, nor do we plan to sleep with each other until the divorce is final.

I have loved Tim far longer than she has been in the picture, and I feel this is a chance for happiness that fate has offered us and we are meant to grow old together. Are we wrong to pursue a relationship?

CONFLICTED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CONFLICTED: If Tim has been in love with you all these years, he couldn't have had much of a marriage. His wife's infidelity was his "get out of jail" ticket and he took it. I don't know what your "friend's" definition of adultery is, but according to Webster's dictionary, you're not committing it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

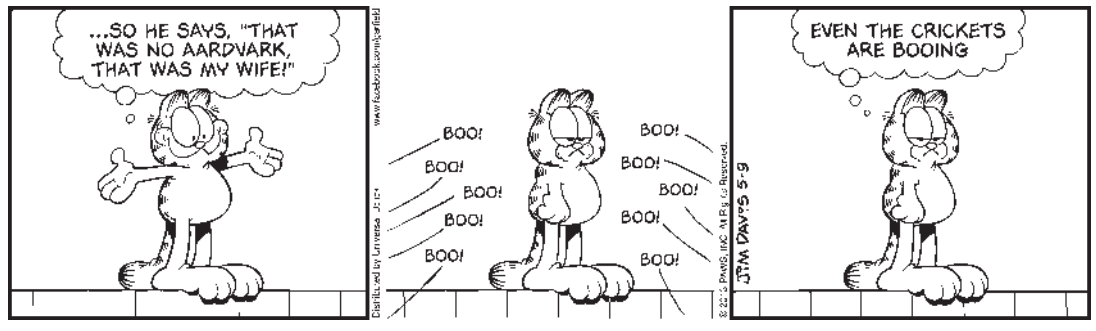
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

CALVIN WINS POSTER CONTE
Judges Astounded By Quality; Boy Rakes In Cash, Shares With Tiger
Classmates Shamed By Wunderkid's Incredible Talent
LOCAL PARADE FOR POSTER WINNER
Calvin Drives Fire Engine, Few Injured
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
Boy Tells Secret Of Greatness
Town Hall Razed, Statue of Calvin Commissioned for Site
NEW STATE MOTTO: "BE CAREFUL, OR BE ROADKILL."
LOOK, CALVIN, MY POSTER WON!
HUH?!

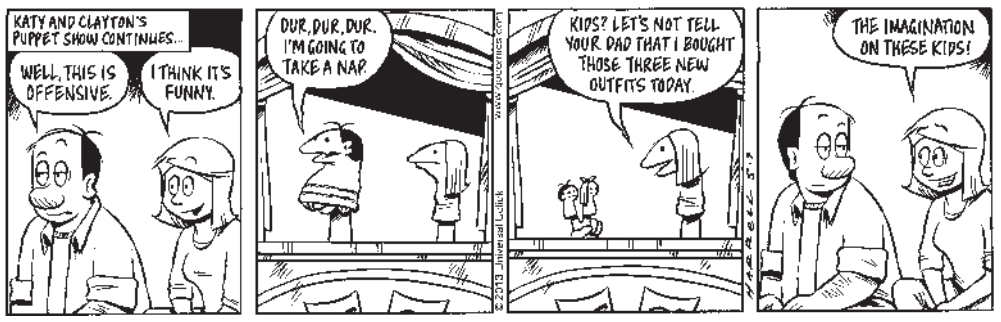
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


KATY AND CLAYTON'S PUPPET SHOW CONTINUES...
WELL, THIS IS OFFENSIVE.
I THINK IT'S FUNNY.
DUR, DUR, DUR. I'M GOING TO TAKE A NAP.
KIDS? LET'S NOT TELL YOUR DAD THAT I BOUGHT THOSE THREE NEW OUTFITS TODAY.
THE IMAGINATION ON THESE KIDS!
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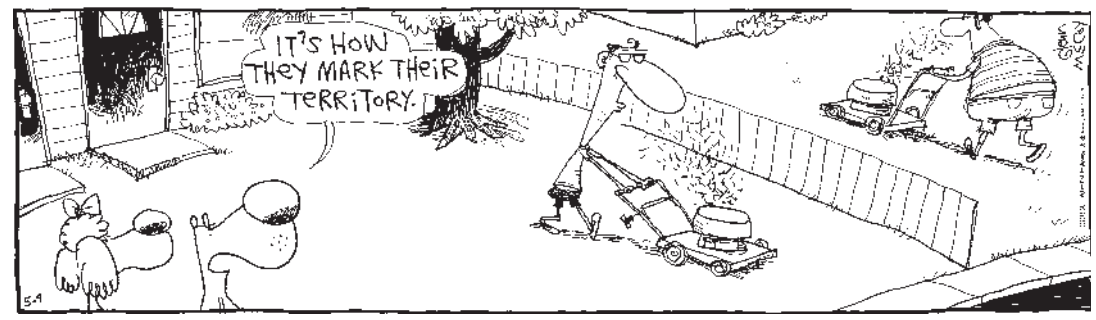
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

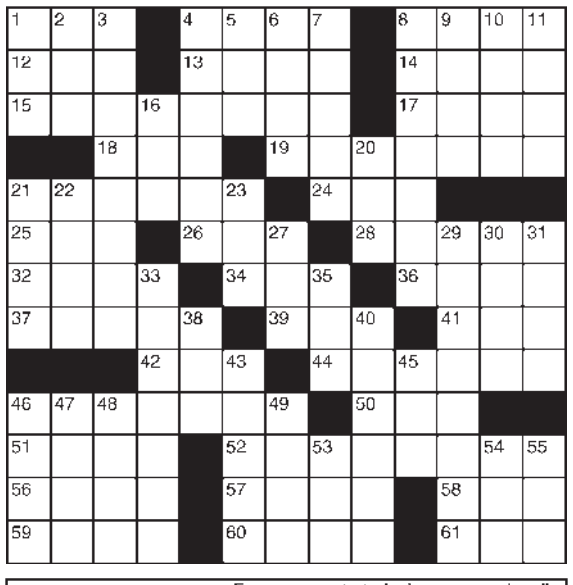
ACROSS
1 Tummy muscles, for short
4 Slapstick arsenal
8 Scallopini meat
12 Press for payment
13 Ireland
14 Not working
15 Classic Anne Murray song
17 Location
18 Charlotte's creation
19 Capitol VIP
21 Pamper
24 Gun the engine
25 Melody
26 Sprite
28 Thin smoky streaks
32 Messy sort
34 Cut the grass
36 Fit of peevishness
37 High-strung
39 Michael Jackson album
41 — budget
42 Affirmative action?
44 About to fall asleep
46 Old-style hairpiece
50 Curved line
51 Neighbor of Cambodia
52 Increase rapidly
56 Scandinavian city
57 Sagan or Sandburg
58 Shooter ammo
59 Adolescent
60 Has bills
61 Dr. Ruth's subject

DOWN
1 Billboards
2 Chignon
3 White-flowered amaryllis
4 Little rock
5 Square root of IX
6 Blunders
7 Passover feast
8 Compared to
9 Tend texts
10 Choir member
11 Ogle
16 Marry
20 Fresh
21 Money
22 Unctuous
23 Shade provider
27 Watch chain
29 Mountain peak covers, often
30 Bowlers' targets
31 Remain
33 Blessing
35 Bankroll
38 Ply oars
40 Talks Dixie-style
43 Mirrorball venue
45 Sphere
46 Basis for a whodunit
47 Relaxation
48 Portrayal
49 Chew like a chipmunk
53 Tramcar contents
54 Shelter
55 Remiss

Solution time: 25 mins.

B	A	G		L	O	S	T		K	E	P	I
F	K	F		A	V	F	R		I	C	O	N
A	I	L		W	A	T	E	R	D	O	W	N
U	N	T	I	L			E	N	D			
			B	E	T	A		A	E	G	I	S
D	O	W	N	S	I	D	E		R	O	D	E
A	S	H		S	C	A	D	S		B	E	T
B	L	O	B		S	I	D	E	D	I	S	H
S	O	A	R	S		R	A	V	E			
			A	A	H			E	B	O	N	Y
D	I	S	H	W	A	T	E	R		M	O	O
A	D	A	M		L	A	V	A		A	S	K
M	O	P	S		F	U	E	L		N	E	E

Yesterday's answer 5-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Steve Yzerman, 48; John Corbett, 52; Billy Joel, 64; Candice Bergen, 67

Happy Birthday: Look at the big picture and weed through what's necessary and what isn't. You can make substantial cutbacks that will enable you to put more into the plans ideas and goals that mean the most to you. Learning, communicating and discovering diverse ways to put what you have to offer into motion will lead to success. Your numbers are 9, 14, 18, 29, 32, 43, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Patience will be required and keeping pushy people at bay necessary. Evaluate whatever situation you encounter before reacting. Concentrate on making alternate plans if someone disrupts what you are trying to accomplish. Secure your position and your reputation. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Listen to what's being said and offered. You will be able to make a move that will surprise some and delight others. Collaborating with someone unique or quite different from you will open up new opportunities for future endeavors. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Quick decisions must be based on fact, not fiction. Go over contracts carefully and flush out any fine print that may cause problems for you at a later date. Being proactive will enable you to stay ahead of any competition you face. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Keeping a steady pace will ensure success. What you do for others will bring rewards. Use your imagination and you will impress someone you'd like to get to know better. Love and romance are highlighted and special plans should be made. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Watch what's going on around you. Someone may try to give you a false impression. Ulterior motives are apparent. You may have to change your plans to avoid getting trapped into doing something you don't want to do. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Use your knowledge and expertise to get ahead. Step into the spotlight and you'll impress everyone with your ideas, plans and presentation. Social networking will bring you in contact with someone spectacular. Don't overspend. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't give in. Instead, make the changes that will ensure you reach your goals. Uncertainty regarding a partnership should be handled with caution. Back away from anyone trying to control or take over. Think outside the box and do your own thing. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You'll have plenty of options and lots to do. Partnership changes can be beneficial if you state what you want and stick to your game plan. Follow your intuition when dealing with domestic situations. Renovations will be tiresome but worthwhile. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Accept the inevitable and keep moving forward. Open up to business or personal partners and you will be able to come up with solutions that will make everyone happy. Love is heading in your direction, so plan something romantic. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Set your goals high and strive for perfection, detail and taking over whatever you pursue. Making alterations at home will make your surroundings more comfortable and enhance your relationships with the special people in your life. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Listen, but don't respond. Keep your plans a secret until you are ready to make your move. Expanding your living quarters or making domestic changes will give you greater maneuverability to pursue one of your goals. Don't fold under pressure. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Your goals, friends and business associates will keep you busy. The timing for something you may have shelved in the past can be reopened. An interview will lead to a new beginning. Creative accounting will be necessary. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are proactive, steadfast and traditional. You are disciplined, productive and reserved.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8			2		6			9
				8				
		2				3		
	6			7			1	
	9		1	3	2		5	
	2			4			9	
		4				6		
				1				
7			3		9			8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	3	7	6	1	2	8	9	5
9	6	8	5	7	4	3	2	1
2	5	1	8	3	9	7	6	4
6	2	4	1	5	8	9	3	7
7	1	9	2	4	3	6	5	8
3	8	5	7	9	6	1	4	2
8	4	6	3	2	7	5	1	9
1	9	3	4	8	5	2	7	6
5	7	2	9	6	1	4	8	3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/08

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SHOPPING AT NORDSTROM Solution: 9 letters

S	S	C	S	S	L	I	A	N	(B)	E	A	U	T	Y
W	P	L	K	R	E	Z	A	L	B	(A)	E	M	O	H
E	E	O	I	S	N	L	A	C	O	S	(T)	E	C	E
A	C	T	R	W	A	T	C	H	E	S	I	(H)	A	R
T	I	H	T	T	H	V	A	L	I	A	T	E	R	S
E	A	I	S	D	C	N	V	Y	D	N	E	R	T	C
R	L	N	S	O	D	O	C	Y	Y	P	P	S	I	H
S	T	G	R	B	D	N	A	R	B	R	Y	D	E	E
E	Y	D	A	S	I	S	O	T	E	O	M	N	R	L
G	E	G	N	L	N	T	S	O	S	D	M	E	A	A
R	S	H	O	E	S	K	E	E	H	U	I	R	C	N
S	H	O	P	P	I	N	G	K	N	C	J	T	S	C
E	K	R	S	N	E	M	O	W	C	T	O	D	E	O
S	E	I	R	O	S	S	E	C	C	A	I	O	L	M
T	I	U	S	P	A	D	E	T	A	K	J	F	L	E

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Accessories, Bath, Beauty, Blazer, Brand, Care, Cartier, Chanel, Choo, Clothing, Cool, Credit, Fitness, Handbags, Herschel, Home, Jacket, Jimmy, Kate, Kids, Lacoste, Lancome, Looks, Nails, NARS, Order, Petite, Product, Retail, Savvy, Sell, Shoes, Shopping, Skin, Skirts, Spade, Specialty, Sportcoats, Suit, Sweaters, Tory, Trends, Trendy, Watches, Women

Yesterday's Answer: BBM

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 34 (Washington D.C. Puzzle Syndicate, 2012) ... Contact us at: Puzzle Syndicate, P.O. Box 1234, Washington D.C. 20013-1234 ... Distributed by Universal Uclick

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

Cook (Japanese cuisine): $5.55/hr. Must be proficient in Japanese cuisine. At least 2 years' professional experience required. Email resume to chinayanbian@hanmisaipan.com.

Waiter/Waitress: $5.55/hr. At least 2 years' experience required. Must be able to take orders in Korean, Chinese, and Japanese. Email resume to chinayanbian@hanmisaipan.com.

1-General Maintenance. Salary $5.55p/h. 3 yrs exp. required. Call Noah Manpower Services at 433-0260.

Royal Thai Massage is looking for 6 Masseuses w/ 1 yr. exp. Green card or US Citizen preferred. Call 234-2521.

SAN VICENTE ESTATE–(1) Commercial Cleaner. 3-5 years experience. Valid Driver's License. Police Clearance Required. Email resume to cisco.cnmi@yahoo.com

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Building and ground maintenance repairer. Extensive experience and references required. Contact Tapochau Estates at 483-9464.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Large family home in Dandan 5 Br./3 bths. Unfurnished w/ new Ref., Stove, Washer, walled & gated, private. View of Laulau & Forbidden Isl., 3 stories, outside kitchen. Call 322-0268.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Hong Ye Trading Company LTD.
P.O. Box 502997 Saipan, MP 96950
Job Vacancy Announcement
(2) Construction Workers
More than 2yrs experience. High School graduate. Salary $5.55/hr.
If interested, call 235-8748.

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(01) CARPENTER Rate $ $6.25/hr
Must be a H/S grad w/ min 5 yrs exp as a Carpenter, W/ knowledge how to construct, erect, install, or repair structures & fixtures made of wood, such as concrete forms; bldg frameworks, incldg partitions, joists, studding, & afters; wood stairways, window & dr frames, hardwood flrs. Must be able to wrk flxble time.

(7) ELECTRICIAN Rate : $ 5.60 to $ 6.75 /hr
Must be a H/S grad w/ min of 5 yrs exp as Electrician. W/ knowledge how to Install, maintain, & repair electrical wiring, equipment & fxtrs. Ensure that wrk is in accordance w/ relevant codes. May install or svc st. lights, intercom systems, or electrical ctrl systems. Must be able to wrk flxbl time.

Closing date May 16, 2013. Interested applicants may apply @ GPPC Inc. office at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of valid Police Clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills testing may be required.

GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) Manager
Min. 5 yrs experience. Extensive knowledge in Accounting, Office Management & Insurance Industry. Ability to adjust in different working environments & deal with various clients of different ethnicity. Salary commensurate with work experience. Send police clearance together with cover letter & resume to friendshipinformation @gmail.com or Friendship Ent., Inc., P.O. Box 501193 CK, Saipan, MP 96950.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
3 ALL AROUND BEAUTICIAN
1 BARBER
Minimum of 5 years experience. $ 5.55/hour.
Bespren Development Corporation
dba Exquisite Beauty Salon
Tel: 789-7684 / 789-7938

Liang's Limited Corporation
Job Vacancy Announcement
3 - Cook. Must be familiar with Chinese cuisine. Able to speak Chinese language preferred. 3 years experience required.
Interested applicants please send resume to liansmile@yahoo.com or call 670-989-4676

Meena's CNMI Corporation
P.O. Box 502147 Saipan, MP 96950
Job Vacancy Announcement
1- Manager (Clothing) Salary $5.55 per hour. College Graduate. Minimum of 4-5 years experience.
1- Seamstress. Salary $5.55 per hour. Minimum of 4 – 5 years.
If interested, email thomastchong@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Building Ground Maintenance
Repairs and maintains physical structures and ground of houses and apartment buildings using hands and power tools. Replaces defective electrical and other fixtures, paint structures and repairs woodworks. Repairs plumbing fixtures and other assign tasks.

4 years experience in plumbing, masonry, painting, electrical, carpentry and ground maintenance skills. Salary: $5.55 p/h.

If interested call L&E House Rental at 322-5924

I.M. Calvo, LLC.
Saipan, MP 96950
Job Vacancy Announcement
Commercial Cleaner
Salary $5.55 per hr. 2 years experience.
Interested U.S. applicants may call tel. 234-6120 or email resume to edwardcalvo@gmail.com

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For SALE or RENT
3 STOREY BUILDING
1st Floor - BIG OFFICE SPACE
2ND FLOOR – APT UNITS:
Two (2 bedrooms, 1bathroom)
One (4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms)
3RD FLOOR – APT UNIT:
One (1 bedroom, 1 bathroom)
Call Maria at 989-7654 or 483-3970

Looking for Property
Preferred location:
Capitol Hill or Navy Hill
(Ocean View to Managaha)
- Must have property map

Please call 234-5700 or email at mtopsun@yahoo.com

CMLC ARTHA CO., LTD.
PMB 771 Box 10003,
Saipan, MP 96950
Job Vacancy Announcement
2 Dive Master. Salary $1200-1500 per month. 2 years experience in scuba diving. Professional Scuba Diving Instructor License required. Reading and writing foreign language preferred.
Interested U.S. applicants may call tel. 234-9157 or email resume to edwardcalvo@gmail.com

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ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY INC.
Job Vacancy Announcement
(01) REGISTERED NURSE
- Must pass NCLEX-RN and current CNMI RN License.
- Attended a hemodialysis training program.
- Must hold a degree in Bachelor of Science in Nursing.
- One to five years hemodialysis experience or related field.
- English Language skills-Proficient in verbal, written and comprehension.
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.
- Certified Nephrology Nurse (CNN) – Preferred.
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.
- Must be flexible with time schedule.

Interested applicants must submit application or resume to St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., at Chalan Kiya Saipan. Deadline to submit application will be on 05/10/13 at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call Judy Arriola at (670) 234-2903 ext. 124.

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Over 100 food stamp vouchers on hold
Businesses slam 'excessive' $500 fire re-inspection, $500 permit fees
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Even despots don't live forever
The flagrance of war
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More US Catholics take complaints to church court
Campus Life
KagHS JROTC does well in drill competition
GCA's January forensic winners
Are you ready to Ace it?

WHATZIT Solution: A tall orcer

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

COMMAND

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www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Grizzlies drop Thunder 99-93, even series at 1-1

AP

Memphis Grizzlies guard Mike Conley (11) shoots against the Oklahoma City Thunder during the first half of Game 2 in their Western Conference semifinal NBA basketball playoff series Tuesday, May 7, 2013, in Oklahoma City.

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—The Memphis Grizzlies wouldn't let Kevin Durant come through in the clutch for the second straight time.

This was Mike Conley's time to shine.

Conley scored 26 points and fueled a late Memphis run as the Grizzlies beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 99-93 on Tuesday night to tie the series at one and gain home-court advantage in the Western Conference semifinals.

Conley hit a 3-pointer from the left wing with 1:58 left to put the Grizzlies ahead to stay and spark a string of 10 straight Memphis points.

The Grizzlies head home for the next two games, with Game 3 on Saturday in Memphis.

"Mike Conley is now one of the top five point guards in the league, whether anybody likes it or not," said Tony Allen, who had two of his five steals in the final minute.

"I know a lot of people have got their favorites on who they think it should be, but Mike Conley is in that conversation now, being able to do these types of things on the court night in and night out."

In the first round, Conley outdueled All-Star Chris Paul of the Los Angeles Clippers.

And now, he filled the late-game void the Grizzlies created when they traded away leading scorer Rudy Gay in the middle of the season.

After Conley's go-ahead 3, he added an 18-foot jumper to stretch the lead to 94-90, then hit one of two free throws with 29.4 seconds left. He finished with 10 rebounds and nine assists, one shy of a triple-double.

"He played like he had been playing all season, and we needed that," coach Lionel Hollins said. "We needed to have somebody on the perimeter do something. He started getting to the basket a little bit and scored some big jump shots late."

After hitting the key baskets in Game 1, Durant couldn't provide an answer for the Thunder. He missed his last three shots, including a pair of 3-point attempts, and finished with 36 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists.

The Thunder caught a break when Allen tipped the ball away and Conley saved it from going out of bounds, only for it to end up in Durant's hands in the corner.

But Durant was off-target on a 3-pointer with 15 seconds left, and Oklahoma City was forced to foul.

In all, the Thunder came up empty on five straight possessions after Conley's go-ahead 3.

"After they scored, there was such little time on the clock, we were just trying to get a quick basket," Durant said, "and it didn't go so well for us."

In Game 1, Durant was able to hit back-to-back jumpers in the final minute to put Oklahoma City in front to stay.

With fellow All-Star Russell Westbrook out for the rest of the playoffs following knee surgery, the load once again fell squarely on his shoulders.

"I can carry as much as coach needs me to carry," Durant said. "I made those shots last game. I missed them this game. I'm just going to continue to keep taking them."

Zach Randolph added two free throws with 13.7 seconds left, and Allen then stepped in front of Durant to steal a pass and provide the finishing touches with a dunk. Derek Fisher hit a 3-pointer at the final buzzer for Oklahoma City.

"The last game, we didn't execute down the stretch, didn't get the stops when we needed them and tonight we did vice-versa," Conley said. "We got the stops, got the rebounds, made big shots and free throws."

Neither team led by more than seven in the game.

Durant put the Thunder ahead 88-86 with a three-point play off a leaner along the lane, only for Gasol to answer right back with a three-point play.

Kendrick Perkins provided Oklahoma City its last lead with two free throws with 2:41 to play, and Conley connected two possessions later after receiving a pass from a double-teamed Gasol in the lane.

"He's a steady point guard that deserves more credit than he gets," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said. "I understand the value he has to that team. He plays for his team every night, and I appreciate the way he plays."

The Grizzlies, who had gotten 52 more shots and 24 more offensive rebounds than Oklahoma City in three regular-season meetings, were back to their usual formula after getting neutralized in those areas in the opener.

Memphis piled up a 48-30 scoring advantage in the paint and also outscored Oklahoma City 23-6 in second-chance points and 18-7 on the fast break.

The Grizzlies also scored 29 points off 21 turnovers by the Thunder, who had just 10 in Game 1.

"Too many offensive rebounds, too many turnovers for us to overcome," Brooks said.

Randolph ended up with 15 points and eight rebounds and Allen had 12 points and five steals.

Fisher had 19 points for the Thunder, making four of five 3-point attempts. Kevin Martin, coming off back-to-back 25-point games, scored six on 2-for-11 shooting.

Durant began the fourth quarter on the bench as Memphis put all five of its starters on the floor, then quickly overcame a 74-69 lead with a 9-2 burst finished off by Conley's transition layup following an Allen steal.

Durant returned and scored 10 of Oklahoma City's next 12 points, but he couldn't finish it out.

Knicks 105, Pacers 79

In New York, Carmelo Anthony hung from the rim, the helpless defender who tried to stop his dunk lying on the court below after falling down.

Pretty soon, Anthony's jumper was falling, too.

Once that happened, the New York Knicks blew away the Indiana Pacers with a performance that resembled something from earlier this season, not this series.

Anthony scored 32 points, 16 during a 30-2 New York onslaught in the second half, and the Knicks beat the Pacers 105-79 on Tuesday night to even the Eastern Conference semifinals at one game.

"I think for the most part from the start of the game and throughout the whole game, I think we played with a sense of urgency today," Anthony said. "We played the way we've been playing as far as competing at the highest level."

Iman Shumpert added 15 points, including a sensational follow dunk in the first half, and Raymond Felton scored 14 as the Knicks turned a close game into a blowout over the final 15 minutes.

Paul George scored 20 points for the Pacers, who had a two-point lead and momentum when coach Frank Vogel called timeout with a little more than 3 minutes left in the third quarter.

By the time the Pacers got on the board in the final period, the Knicks had opened a 26-point advantage.

"The fourth quarter we just defensively, we picked up," Knicks coach Mike Woodson said. "We kept getting stop after stop and then we would rebound the ball and get it up and our offense began to flow like old times. It was kind of nice to see."

Game 3 is Saturday at Indianapolis.

It was the first time the Knicks scored 100 points in a playoff game since June 9, 1999, when they beat the Pacers 101-94. It was New York's largest margin of victory in the postseason since a 109-75 rout of Detroit on April 24, 1992, according to information provided by ESPN Stats and Info to the Knicks.

David West scored 13 points for the Pacers, who committed 21 turnovers that led to 32 points, negating their height advantage that loomed so large in their Game 1 victory.

Indiana had trailed most of the night before taking a 64-62 lead on George Hill's 3-pointer with 3:28 left in the third quarter that capped a 10-4 run, the Pacers seeming to have all the momentum.

Vogel then called timeout with a little more than 3 minutes left and subbed out center Roy Hibbert.

Seeing the middle open, Anthony came back attacking, first with a drive and then a dunk while drawing a foul that knocked over Hibbert's replacement, Jeff Pendergraph, and the game was never the same.

"It was our timeout," Vogel said. "I usually use that situation to put something in while we have the ball."

New York closed the period on a 10-2 run, Pablo Prigioni opened the fourth with a 3-pointer and a jumper in the lane, drawing chants of "Pablo! Pablo!" and then Anthony put it away.

He hit a jumper and a 3-pointer, and after Tyson Chandler's follow dunk, the NBA's scoring leader converted a three-point play and drilled another 3-pointer before another basket by Chandler made it 92-66, extending the run to 30-2.

"Melo just caught fire," George said.

Tyler Hansbrough got the Pacers on the board with two free throws with 4:48 left, and the Pacers finally made a field goal when reserve Orlando Johnson hit a 3-pointer with 3:07 to go after Vogel had started emptying his bench.

Prigioni and Kenyon Martin finished with 10 points apiece as the Knicks endured another dreadful game from Sixth Man of the Year J.R. Smith, who was 3 of 15 for eight points.

Anthony had shot 35 for 110 over his previous four games but broke out of his slump Tuesday, going 13 of 26 and adding nine rebounds as the Knicks, pummeled on the boards in Indiana's 102-95 victory in Game 1, finished with a 37-35 advantage.

Indiana had a 44-30 advantage on the boards Saturday. The Game 1 winner won all of the six series these teams played between 1993-00, but the Knicks refused to panic, with Woodson not considering a change to a bigger lineup to match the Pacers' size.

It wasn't needed.

"I think we just made a point to team rebound," Chandler said.

The Knicks scored seven straight points midway through the first quarter and led 29-20 at the end of the period. But unlike in Game 1, they extended the lead for much of the second.

They got the lead to 11 a couple of times early in the period, once emphatically when Shumpert darted into the lane when Chris Copeland shot a 3-pointer from the other side of the floor, went unchecked toward the rim and grabbed the rebound with one hand and threw it down powerfully, a play that had the Madison Square Garden crowd still buzzing a few minutes later.

"I think I was trying to make a statement," said Shumpert, who didn't even play until midseason after tearing his ACL in last year's playoff opener. "I just wanted to win this game real bad. We needed this game."

Shumpert's jumper late in the quarter capped an 8-0 run and extended the Knicks' lead to 47-34 with 3:46 remaining, but West made a basket before George scored the final six points, his 3-pointer cutting it to 47-42 with 1:16 left, and neither team scored the rest of the way.

Indiana committed 12 turnovers that led to 20 points in the half.

Harvey dominant thru 9, Mets beat Chisox 1-0 in 10

NEW YORK (AP)—Matt Harvey was so dominant, it seemed certain the Chicago White Sox would never score. Instead, each pitch raised more tantalizing questions: Would they ever get a hit, or even a runner?

Harvey threw one-hit ball for nine innings in a nearly perfect performance and the New York Mets permitted just one baserunner all game in beating the White Sox 1-0 in the 10th Tuesday night.

Harvey allowed only an infield single by Alex Rios with two outs in the seventh—he was safe, barely. The right-hander with the bright future struck out a career-high 12 and was pulled when the game went to extra innings.

"I mean, obviously, everything was working," Harvey said.

Pinch-hitter Mike Baxter lined an RBI single with one out in the 10th off Nate Jones (0-3).

Mets reliever Bobby Parnell (3-0) struck out two in the 10th.

It was a most rare interleague matchup. Because of schedule quirks, the Mets and White Sox had played just three previous games since AL vs. NL action began in 1997. Only Texas and St. Louis have met so infrequently—they've played three games in the regular season, plus seven in the 2011 World Series.

It was nearly historic, too.

"Harvey was as advertised tonight," Chicago manager Robin Ventura said.

Harvey neared a no-hitter for the second time this season. He held Minnesota hitless for 6 2-3 innings on April 13 until Justin Morneau homered off the foul pole.

In his 17th big league start, the solidly built Harvey bid for even more. Already hailed as the face of the franchise's fortunes, the 24-year-old nearly pitched a game for the ages.

The closest the White Sox came to a hit in the early innings was on a grounder by Jeff Keppinger in the fourth that third baseman David Wright fielded and threw while crossing into foul territory.

After that play, Harvey said, "I kind of realized this might actually happen."

Harvey set down the first 20 batters until Rios hit a grounder in the hole in the seventh. The crowd instantly gasped, sensing trouble.

Mets shortstop Ruben Tejada did his best, gloving the ball on the edge of the infield dirt and making a jump throw. First baseman Ike Davis made a long stretch and caught the ball cleanly, but Rios was safe by a shade. The fans groaned when first base umpire Mark Carlson correctly called him safe.

"I tried to do it my best," Tejada said.

Said Rios: "He threw me a slider, middle-away and I just rolled over it. My job was to get to first base so we could try and score a run."

Harvey got a big ovation as he settled in to face the next hitter, then fanned Adam Dunn for his 10th strikeout. The crowd of 23,394 stood as Harvey walked to the dugout, where manager Terry Collins met him with a fist bump.

Harvey had no regrets about the hit.

"It's not the first time it's ever happened," he said.

The Mets have had only one no-hitter in their history, last June 1 by Johan Santana against St. Louis.

Pitching after six off days, Harvey overpowered the White Sox with a fastball in the upper 90s mph and got them guessing with a sharp breaking ball and pinpoint changeup.

His biggest problem in the early going was a nosebleed that developed soon before the first pitch.

AP

New York Mets' Mike Baxter, second from right, reacts as teammates mob him following his walk-off single during the 10th inning of the baseball game against the Chicago White Sox at Citi Field Tuesday, May 7, 2013 in New York.

Pirates 4, Mariners 1

In Pittsburgh, Jeanmar Gomez pitched five shutout innings while making a surprise spot start to help Pittsburgh down Seattle in an interleague game.

Andrew McCutchen went 4 for 4 with an RBI-double and Garrett Jones hit a two-run homer in the eighth to pad the lead. Jason Grilli pitched the ninth for his major league-leading 13th save.

Gomez (2-0) allowed just two hits, striking out five and walking two. He was forced into action after scheduled starter James McDonald was sent to the 15-day disabled list with tightness in his right (throwing) shoulder less than two hours before the first pitch.

Aaron Harang (1-4) posted his second strong outing, but received little help from Seattle's anemic offense. Raul Ibanez provided a pinch-hit RBI-double in the seventh to pull the Mariners within a run, but Seattle couldn't keep Pittsburgh from improving to 14-0 when leading after seven innings this season.

Rockies 2, Yankees 0

In Denver, Jorge De La Rosa pitched six scoreless innings in a steady rain and Carlos Gonzales hit his seventh homer in Colorado's win over New York.

Despite a stellar start from Hiroki Kuroda, the Yankees lost their fifth straight game at Coors Field, dating to an interleague series in 2002. They were swept in a three-game set in 2007 in their last trip to Denver's downtown ballpark.

Gonzalez broke a scoreless tie with two outs in the sixth when he sent a 3-2 pitch from Kuroda (4-2) into the right field bullpen with a runner on to give Colorado a 2-0 lead. His homer followed a two-out single by Josh Rutledge.

De La Rosa (3-3) allowed three hits, walked one and struck out a pair in improving to 3-0 with a 0.98 ERA lifetime against the Yankees.

Brewers 6, Rangers 3

In Milwaukee, Yuniesky Betancourt's eighth homer of the season capped a five-run first inning and Milwaukee snapped a season-high five-game losing streak.

Aramis Ramirez also homered for the first time this year and NL batting leader Carlos Gomez added a two-run double in the interleague matchup.

Wily Peralta (3-2) gave up three runs—two earned—and five hits in six innings.

Three relievers followed with an inning each for the Brewers, including Jim Henderson in the ninth for his seventh save.

Mitch Moreland homered for the Rangers, who lost consecutive games for the third time this year. They also lost their season-high fourth straight on the road.

Justin Grimm (2-2) gave up five earned runs on eight hits in five innings after entering the game with a total of six earned runs allowed this year. The right-hander struck out seven and walked three.

Reds 5, Braves 4

In Cincinnati, Devin Mesoraco and Shin-Soo Choo hit two-out homers in the ninth inning to rally Cincinnati to victory.

Mesoraco connected for his first career pinch-hit homer off Craig Kimbrel (0-1), who blew a save for the second time in five days. Kimbrel went to a full count on Mesoraco before the catcher homered into the first row in center.

Four pitches later, Choo hit his second homer of the game, giving him a team-leading seven. It was his second career game-ending homer.

Kimbrel fanned the first two batters in the ninth and was one strike away from getting his 100th career save. He'd allowed only one homer this season, but gave up two in a five-pitch sequence.

Jonathan Broxton (1-1) retired three batters in the ninth for Cincinnati's fourth win in five games.

Cubs 2, Cardinals 1

In Chicago, Travis Wood pitched impressively into the seventh inning to outduel Lance Lynn, Nate Schierholtz hit a two-run homer and Chicago snapped St. Louis' six-game winning streak.

The Cardinals' streak was their longest since an eight-game run July 11-21, 2010.

Wood (3-2) allowed one run and five hits while striking out eight in 6 2-3 innings for his first win since April 27 at Miami.

Carlos Marmol relieved Wood with two outs in the seventh and pitched 1 1-3 scoreless innings. In the eighth he allowed a single to Yadier Molina and walked Jon Jay before getting out of the inning by picking Molina off between second and third.

Lynn (5-1) was trying to become the NL's first pitcher to win six games.

Diamondbacks 5, Dodgers 3

In Los Angeles, Paul Goldschmidt hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the ninth inning off closer Brandon League and Arizona sent last-place Los Angeles to its sixth straight loss.

League (0-2) walked Gerardo Parra to open the ninth and struck out Didi Gregorius. Goldschmidt fouled off five full-count pitches before driving his seventh home run into the left-field pavilion.

David Hernandez (2-2) pitched a scoreless eighth for the win. Arizona closer J.J. Putz left with an injury after issuing a leadoff walk in the ninth to Nick Punto, but Heath Bell got three outs for his second save.

Padres 5, Marlins 1

In San Diego, Eric Stults pitched seven-hit ball into the seventh inning, Will Venable hit a two-run homer and drove in three runs, and resurgent San Diego sent Miami to its fifth loss in seven games.

Stults (3-2) walked two and struck out four in 6 1-3 innings as the Padres won for the 10th time in 13 games. San Diego, which began the season 5-15 and has won eight of its last nine at Petco Park, improved to 15-18.

The Marlins have the second worst record in baseball at 10-24.

The Padres touched up Miami starter Alex Sanabia (2-5) for four runs in the first two innings, highlighted by Venable's two-run homer, his fourth of the season.

Phillies 6, Giants 2

In San Francisco, Chase Utley and Ryan Howard homered to help Philadelphia beat Tim Lincecum (2-2) and San Francisco.

Utley had three hits and two RBIs, Howard reached base four times and Kyle Kendrick (4-1) pitched seven strong innings to win his third consecutive decision. The right-hander extended his scoreless streak on the road to 25 innings before giving up a sacrifice fly to Angel Pagan in the third.

Philadelphia has won two straight against the World Series champions since two-time Cy Young Award winner Roy Halladay went on the disabled list with a shoulder injury. Halladay met with a specialist in Southern California earlier in the day.

Kendrick yielded six hits and two runs, needing only 88 pitches to get through seven innings.

Orioles 4, Royals 3

In Baltimore, Matt Wieters drove in three runs, including the tiebreaker in the eighth inning, and the Baltimore Orioles beat the Kansas City Royals, 4-3, Tuesday night on a soggy night at Camden Yards.

After blowing a three-run lead, the Orioles went back on top in the eighth. Adam Jones drew a leadoff walk from Tim Collins (1-1) and advanced when Luke Hochevar threw wildly to first base on a pickoff attempt. Wieters then lofted a fly to left that landed just inside the foul line for a double.

Tommy Hunter (2-1) worked 1 1/3 innings of relief, and Jim Johnson got three straight outs for his 12th save.

It was the fourth win in five games for the Orioles.

Indians 1, Athletics 0

In Cleveland, Zach McAllister and two relievers combined on a shutout, and the host Indians scored an unearned run in the fifth inning for their eighth win in nine games. McAllister (3-3), Rich Hill and Chris Perez limited the A's to six hits and did not allow a runner to reach second base.

Blue Jays 6, Rays 4

In St. Petersburgh, Fla., Maicer Itzuris' home run and an RBI double by Melky Cabrera in the ninth lifted the visiting Blue Jays. Toronto starter J.A. Happ was hit in the head by a line drive in the second inning and taken off the field on a stretcher. He was taken to a hospital for tests, but the Blue Jays had no update on his condition immediately after the game, manager John Gibbons said.

Twins 6, Red Sox 1

In Boston, Scott Diamond allowed three hits in seven innings, and Ryan Doumit hit his first homer of the season for the visiting Twins. Diamond (3-2) gave up a single in each of the first three innings, didn't allow a runner past first base and retired the last 15 batters he faced.

Astros 7, Angels 6

In Houston, Chris Carter's three-run homer put Houston ahead in the third, and the host Astros ended a six-game losing streak. Jose Altuve also homered for the Astros, who took advantage of three errors by Angels catcher Hank Conger.

Heo tops SDA 4th Annual 5K Hope Run

Si Young Heo was the first to the finish line in last Sunday's 4th Annual 5K Hope Run organized by the Saipan Seventh Day Adventist School.

Heo clocked in at 22:08 to best veteran runner Steven Pixley in the 5-kilometer run that started from the Garapan Fishing Base in front of Kristo Rai Church and ended at the Minatchom Atdao Pavillion in Susupe.

Pixley cut the tape 23 seconds after Heo crossed the finish line (22:31), while Frank Diesa came in third with his time of 23:27. Completing the Top 5 were Sakiko Eda (23:29) and Kaitlyn Mocanu (24:16).

Aside from the top runners, Saipan SDA School also awarded prizes to the top male and female runners in five age categories.

Allen Stafford and JinA Choi won the boys and girls 10-and-below age group with their times of 26:05 and 53:40, respectively.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Si Young Heo in action during last Sunday's 4th Annual 5K Hope Run. Heo clocked in at 22:08 to top the race.

Dominating the 11-20 age group, meanwhile were Deffery Kios (30:59) and Carmen Masga (38:50).

Carlos Sotomayor was the top male in the 21-30 category with his 26:19, while Kaitlyn Mocanu won in the women's with her aforementioned 24:16.

The 31-40 age group were dominated by top runner Si Young Heo and Crystal Pierson (31:22).

Steve Pixley was without peer in the 41-and-above category, with Sakiko Eda winning the women's race.

A total of 77 runners took part in the fun run.

The 4th Annual 5K Hope Run raised nearly $6,000 for the Saipan SDA School. Its public relations director and accountant Virle Shay Gayatin said the money raised will go to the Hope Run Scholarship Fund for School Year 2013-2014. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

TAMMY

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her last two races. She clocked in at 1:19.73 in the 100m butterfly, more than 10 second faster than the 1:29.75 of Gomez. Tammy defeated 10 other swimmers in this event.

Then in the 200m individual medley, Tammy won her third showdown with Gomez, as the former submitted 2:53.07 against the 2:56.57 of the latter. Hon rounded out the Top 3 with her 3:03.99.

Meanwhile, two other Tsunami Saipan swimmers joined the Guam competition with Kensuke Kimura taking runner-up honors in the 19-and-over age group and Takumi Sugie finishing fourth in the 13 to 14 division.

Kimura collected 37 points, just two points behind eventual age group winner Soujyu Usui of Tsunami Guam. The 17-year-old Kimura got two first place finishes, winning the 100m backstroke (1:06.66) and 100m breaststroke (1:13.59) races. He then finished second in the 200m IM (2:20.41) and third in the 100m freestyle (58.19 seconds) and 100m butterfly (1:02.80).

Sugie gained 25 points after notching fourth place in all five events. He clocked in at 1:05.15 in the 100m freestyle, 1:16.95 in the 100m backstroke, 1:27.59 in the 100m breaststroke, 1:14.73 in the 100m butterfly, and 2:39.93 in the 200m IM.

LIONS

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lis and Kobe Tomokane added two RBIs each for the Lions.

Red Sox 13, X-clusive 1

League-leading Red Sox (9-1) kept their distance over the JPO Enforcers (7-2) after downing X-clusive in only four and a half innings.

Nathan Camacho pitched in no relief for the Red Sox and recorded nine strikeouts. He allowed only three hits in five innings pitched and gave up one run on a wild pitch.

The Red Sox scored five runs apiece in the first and fourth inning to take the victory two and a half innings early.

Falcons 21, Fielders 7

The Talaabwogh Falcons denied the Fielders' entry to the win column with a lopsided victory last weekend.

The Falcons improved to a 3-6 record and are still in the hunt for the playoff berth, while the Fielders are out with their 0-10 slate.

Logan Martin led the Falcons' demolition, as he hit 4-for-5 and nailed five RBIs. He also scored five runs and got one double. Ben Iguel contributed four RBIs on a perfect 4-for-4 performance at the plate.

The Falcons scored five runs each in the second and third inning and had three in the first, while shutting out the Fielders in the first three en route to the easy win after five innings.

SENIORS
Enforcers 5, Ol'Aces 3

In a make-up game last Tuesday, the Dare Enforcers (7-5) slipped past the Ol'Aces (6-6).

Jeff Dela Cruz connected on a two-run homer at the top of the sixth inning and relief pitcher Jose Lizama got the third out at the bottom via strikeout to foil the Ol'Aces' bid to extend the match.

Dela Cruz's homer gave the Enforcers a 4-1 lead, going into the bottom of the last inning. Denny Jepen then led off for the Ol'Aces at the bottom of the sixth and was beaten to first, while Jesse Brel walked and went on to reach home off an Enforcers' error. A 6-3 putout play on third batter Keola Camacho moved the Enforcers one out away from ending the match. However, Verlance Secharmidal singled and also made it home off the Enforcers' successive errors to cut the deficit to one. With two outs, fifth batter Mike Muna was next at bat for the Ol'Aces but he failed to overcome the pressure, as he was struck out by Lizama.

LOPSIDED

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secured the win after only five innings, as they connected on their target in the last two innings, while shutting out IT&E.

IT&E threatened to pull off an upset after taking an 8-7 lead at the bottom of the third. However, an eight-run top of the fourth swung momentum to the Ol'Aces, which managed to take the win one inning earlier via 10-run mercy rule after adding three more runs in the fifth.

Relief pitcher Roman Reyes, who came in for Tyler Flores in the third inning, struck out four and gave up only two hits in the last two innings.

On offense, the Ol'Aces leaned on Kimo Angailen, who went 4-for-5 at bat and scored four runs and six RBIs. He added two triples and one double to lift the Ol'Aces to an 8-5 record and boost their playoff chances, as the team are currently in seventh place in the 16-squad field. IT&E (1-13) is tied with the Jets for last place and is out of the playoff, as only the Top 8 teams will advance to the next round.

Rockies 14, Twins 2

In last Sunday's opener, the Pinnacle Rockies were done with the As Matuis Twins after only three and a half innings.

The Rockies also nailed an early win via 10-run mercy rule after drilling 12 runs in at the bottom of second inning and allowing the Twins to score only at the top of the third.

Kenny Diaz pitched four innings for the Rockies, striking out six and walking two in a nearly error-free game. He had only one error and gave up six hits and one earned run.

The Rockies got 10 runs off the Twins' errors and the rest were earned. Donavin Ada led the Rockies at the plate with his 3-for-3 performance.

The Rockies improved to a 10-4 record for a share of third place with the Enforcers and behind the Talaabwogh Falcons (11-1) and NSA Braves (11-2). The Twins fell to a 3-11 mark for 13th place.

Laolao 13, Comets II 3

The third game last Sunday also ended early with Laolao Bay Golf Resort beating the Comets II in four innings.

Laolao held the Comets to one run in the last three innings to move up to solo fourth place with its 10-3 slate. The Comets II dropped to a 5-9 slate and is already out of the playoffs.

After a shaky 3-2 lead in the first inning, Laolao set up the easy victory via 10-run mercy rule when it scored six runs in the second inning.

Dwayne Reyes paced Laolao with his three RBIs on a 2-for-2 stint at the plate. Pete Maratita pitched four innings for Laolao, struck out seven, gave up only four hits and two earned runs, and walked five.

Enforcers 6, Little Legals 3

The second match last Sunday was the only close game with the JPO Enforcers (10-4) edging the Kagman Little Legals (7-7).

The Enforcers scored all their six runs in the first three innings to gain cushion against the Little Legals, who notched only one run in the first four innings before getting two in the fifth to threaten their foes.

However, the Little Legals fell short at the top of the last inning with Shakobe Rangamar striking out the leadoff batter and grounding out the third. The Little Legals were caught stealing second base earlier for the second out.

McDonald's 16, IT&E 3

Meanwhile, in the lone game last Monday, McDonald's (9-4) routed IT&E.

It took McDonald's only four innings to wrap up the match, as it allowed IT&E to score only in the third inning. McDonald's capitalized on an erratic IT&E defense, scoring 12 runs off its foe's miscues.

Sho Taguchi pitched 3.1 innings for McDonald's and almost had a no-hitter, giving up only one hit, while striking out five and walking three.

Woods goes from red carpet to TPC Sawgrass

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP)— One night after making his red carpet debut in New York, Tiger Woods was on a golf course that hasn't treated him very well over the years.

Woods said it took him a week to get over his tie for fourth at the Masters. Next up is The Players Championship, where he has won only once in 15 years and has just one top 10 since that victory in 2001.

"If you're not playing well, you're going to get exposed," Woods said.

Woods was at full exposure Monday night at the Met with girlfriend Lindsey Vonn. For someone who has demanded so much privacy off the golf course, he attended the Costume Institute Gala. Vonn was a guest of Vogue. He posed on the red carpet wearing a black suit, while the Olympic ski champion wore a long white dress with see-through slits. The theme of the gala was "PUNK: Chaos to Coutre."

Woods has always been more about green jackets and claret jugs.

"It was certainly different," Woods said. "Lindsey wanted to try and grow her brand. She's come out with a new perfume and makeup line, so that was a big thing for her and I'm supporting it. As you know, I'm not really big into fashion stuff. The theme was pretty interesting, because obviously I remember some of that stuff when I was a kid. But I certainly didn't wear that stuff."

Are more red carpets on the horizon?

"We'll see," Woods said. "Maybe I can just go in jeans and a T-shirt or something."

Woods is used to the attention as the primary focus of golf since he won the 1997 Masters. He was reminded of how much fans pay attention to him at the Masters, where he was involved in an unusual rules situation that won't seem to go away.

It started with Woods' third shot hitting the flag on the 15th hole and bouncing back into the water on the opening hole. Woods unknowingly took an illegal drop, but he wasn't told about the possible infraction until after he signed his card. Augusta National took the blame, with competitions chairman Fred Ridley saying it didn't initially notice the violation and chose not to ask Woods about it before he signed his card.

Eventually, he was given a two-shot penalty but allowed to stay in the tournament—instead of being disqualified for signing an incorrect scorecard—under Rule 33-7 that gives a committee discretion to waive the disqualification penalty.

The U.S. Golf Association and Royal & Ancient last week said the Masters was within its right not to disqualify Woods. He wound up four shots out of the lead in a tie for fourth, his 15th consecutive major without winning.

Woods said it took him a week to get over his performance at the Masters. He said he was surprised that the drop and how it was handled was still being debated.

"I think Fred explained it pretty well," Woods said. "For some reason, evidently that wasn't accepted."

Woods said he if saw a violation on television, he would not call it in. Television viewers - in the case of the Masters, it was David Eger, a respected rules expert - have been calling in what they think are rules violations for years.

"I don't ever see myself calling in and saying that Kobe (Bryant) traveled or things like that, or an offensive lineman held," he said. "But it's our sport. And that's what we've done and we've accepted. Certain groups are going to get more heat than others just because they're on TV. It is what it is."

Woods, who now has gone eight appearances without winning the Masters, said he didn't stop thinking about it until he resumed practice a week later.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	21	12	.636	_
Baltimore	20	13	.606	1
New York	18	13	.581	2
Tampa Bay	14	18	.438	6 1/2
Toronto	13	21	.382	8 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	19	11	.633	_
Kansas City	17	12	.586	1 1/2
Cleveland	16	14	.533	3
Minnesota	14	15	.483	4 1/2
Chicago	13	18	.419	6 1/2

West Division

Texas	20	13	.606	_
Oakland	18	16	.529	2 1/2
Seattle	15	19	.441	5 1/2
Los Angeles	11	21	.344	8 1/2
Houston	9	24	.273	11

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	19	13	.594	_
Washington	17	15	.531	2
Philadelphia	16	18	.471	4
New York	13	16	.448	4 1/2
Miami	10	24	.294	10

Central Division

St. Louis	20	12	.625	_
Pittsburgh	18	14	.563	2
Cincinnati	19	15	.559	2
Milwaukee	15	16	.484	4 1/2
Chicago	13	20	.394	7 1/2

West Division

Colorado	19	13	.594	_
San Francisco	19	14	.576	1/2
Arizona	18	15	.545	1 1/2
San Diego	15	18	.455	4 1/2
Los Angeles	13	19	.406	6

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CNMI Sharks vs Guam Selection

PHOTOS By
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI Sharks acknowledge the crowd after their game against a selection of players from Guam's Budweiser Football League last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

A Guam player loses the ball after colliding against CNMI Sharks defenders.

Guam and CNMI players huddle at the center after their game.

Guam and CNMI players exchange hi-fives after the match.

CNMI Sharks' Derick Rangamar gets cover from his teammates.

Vincent Kaipat tries to get away from Guam defenders.

Guam quarterback Will Williams is chased by a CNMI Sharks player.

A CNMI Sharks player is down as his teammates try to tackle Will Williams.

A CNMI Sharks player dives for the ball.

A Guam player signals to the referee as he his being watched by the CNMI Sharks' Alex Standish.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Tammy tops Guam pentathlon

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center's Miku Tammy bested 11 other Guam swimmers to finish first in the U12 division of the 2013 Guam Pentathlon Meet held over the weekend at the Hagatna Pool.

Tsunami Saipan's Miku Tammy, seen here in a file photo competing in a local event, won the U12 age group crown in the 2013 Guam Pentathlon Meet held over the weekend at the Hagatna Pool.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

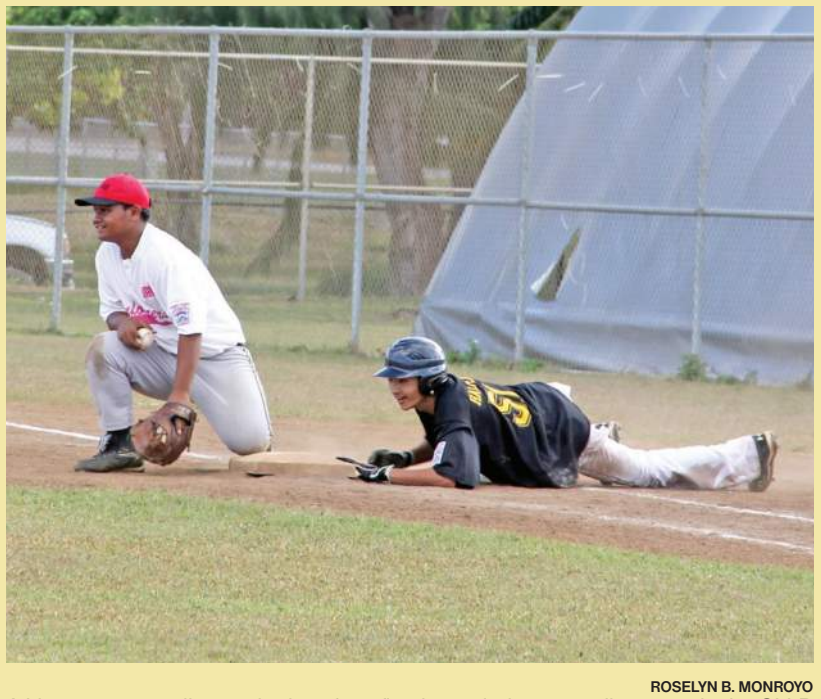
Tammy ruled five events and placed runner-up in two more races to earn 41 points, nine points ahead of runner-up Mineri Gomez of Manukai Athletic Club. The 11-year-old Tsunami Saipan swimmer started her bid in the Guam tournament via the 100m freestyle race where she recorded 1:10.1 to finish second behind Gomez (1:09.76).

Tammy's second event was the 100m backstroke and this time she posted the fastest time at 1:21.55, more than five seconds ahead of Tsunami Guam's Leilani Koiwa (1:26.54) and Gomez (1:26.67). Another Top 2 finish in the 100m breaststroke put Tammy in good position of winning her age group, as she clocked in at 1:38.44 and beat Koiwa (1:38.58) and Gomez (1:46.43). Samantha Hon of Tsunami Guam ruled the event with her 1:34.94.

The Tsunami Saipan bet went on to clinch the age group championship in the Guam tournament after sweeping

See TAMMY on Page 26

Lions keep playoff bid in Junior League



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Lions runner smiles, as he is safe at first base during an earlier game in the SLLB against the Enforcers at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Lions remained in playoff contention after beating the Comets, 11-8, in the Junior Division game in the 2103 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Lions now have a 4-5 record for a tie for fourth place with the X-clusive. The Top 4 teams in the six-squad field will march into the playoffs.

Relief pitcher Ben Maratita shut out the Comets (6-4) in the last two innings, allowing only two hits, while the rest of the Lions defenders caught five fly balls to pull off the upset. Maratita also had a solid performance at the plate, going 3-for-4 and scoring three RBIs one triple, and one run. Perry Ce-

See LIONS on Page 26

Lopsided wins in Major division

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Go See Mark Ol'Aces batter waits for the pitch during their game against IT&E in the Major division of the SLLB last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Victories via routs were recorded in the 2013 Saipan Little League Baseball as the regular season entered the homestretch.

In last Saturday's second game at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield, the Go See Mark Ol'Aces whipped IT&E, 18-8. The Ol'Aces

See LOPSIDED on Page 26